



# Sacro Speco

## Sacred Space

THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE + SUMMER/FALL 2020



## Our Grounds: A Source of Growth

By Sister Rita Nowak, OSB



# Summer/Fall Issue 2020, vol. XXXI, no. 1

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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](mailto: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



*Sister Judith Murphy, OSB  
Prioress*

*D*ear Friends,

We at St. Scholastica Monastery had hoped that with the Testimonial Dinner we could introduce a year of special attention to care of the earth with events and study groups about care for God's creation. The aim was to heed Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*, where he calls us to the care of the earth, our common home. We had thought to start with the ecology of water in the Great Lakes Region, relating these to understanding the threat of sea level rising faced by 40% of humanity who live in areas within 60 miles of seacoasts.

Our world's experience since mid-March, instead, is of trying to grasp the reality of the pandemic Covid-19, which some describe as a hidden enemy. As a human race we are impacted by its effects, directly through the loss of loved ones, or indirectly by the news, state by state and country by country with overwhelming statistics of sickness and death. We can feel helpless in the face of it, and we are subject to precautions required while awaiting the development of a vaccine to protect against its ravages.

And we struggle to know how to respond as health care and the economy are impacted, as are peoples' livelihoods, education, and life plans.

And as we are threatened by Covid-19, there is the simultaneous threat of racism, which some call Covid-1619, recognizing that racism began in this country with the arrival of the first slave ship from Africa.

How can we collaborate in responding as a human community to heal earth's ecology and to heal humanity's Covid-19 and Covid-1619?

A story in the Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great tells of St. Benedict having had a vision of the entire world united as if in a single ray of light, and the light was God's love. May St. Benedict guide us to desire and ask for the grace to be united in love with this beautiful world and all of its peoples, and to yearn for and work for solutions for the illnesses and injustices that trouble our global community.

Yours in peace,

*Judith Murphy, OSB*

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## Letters From You

### ST. SCHOLASTICA MEMORIES

Dear Sisters,

This is to thank you for my excellent education and your continuing mission to our broken world. I really enjoy *Sacro Speco* and your commitment to social justice.

Again, many thanks,

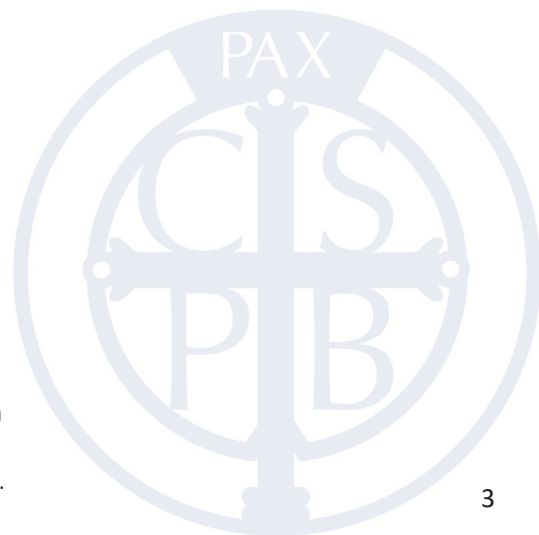
*-Linda Connolly McNeely,  
St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago '66*

### SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

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

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

Or email [smeluso@osbchicago.org](mailto:smeluso@osbchicago.org) with subject line "For Sacro Speco Letters."  
We will publish letters as space permits.



# Monastery News

On Sunday, February 23, the [Benedictine Oblates](#) of St. Scholastica monastery hosted Judith Valente, Benedictine Oblate of Mount St. Scholastica, for a presentation on the Art of Pausing. As a former workaholic, Ms. Valente drew from her own life and the writings of Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, and Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh to emphasize the benefits of pausing. We are grateful to the Benedictine Oblates for hosting this meaningful afternoon of reflection.

On the chilly, bleak evening of March 6, 70 guests gathered for a Taizé prayer service to listen to and reflect on scripture in the St. Scholastica chapel. Accompanied by live musicians, they sang beautiful chants composed by the Taizé monastic community in Eastern France. The light from a single candle traveled throughout the congregation until each guest's candle was lit. Participants then processed toward the altar to place their lit candles into sand-filled containers. As candles glowed in the darkness, a meditative silence filled the room. Once the closing chant ended, several people lingered in the silence. [Oblates Maureen Kaucher, and Paula Kowalkowski](#) together with [Sister Patricia Coughlin, OSB](#), organized the moving service. Participants included singers Susanne Santos and Paula Kowalkowski, cellist Linda Baggerly, flautist Sandra Korelc, and pianist Maureen Kaucher. Many thanks to [Oblate Matthew Ambre](#) who created an original illustration for the program.

[Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB](#) – along with her colleague Tim Higgins, Sheil Catholic Center's Campus Minister – organized a virtual Busy Student Retreat for Northwestern University students who are members of the Sheil Catholic Center. The young adults met daily during the last week of April with an assigned spiritual companion. The leaders, who encouraged, accompanied, and listened to the students, included Sister Belinda, Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD, Sister Aprilia Untarto SSpS, Sister Jessi Beck, PBVM, and Mr. Tim Higgins. Each day, students committed to half an hour of

personal prayer. At the end of the retreat, both students and spiritual companions convened as a whole to share their faith-building experiences. Despite the less-than-ideal setting, the virtual retreat proved to be a much-needed restorative respite in the midst of a busy spring semester.

After nearly a year in Namibia, [Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB](#) reports that the country remains a coveted spot for tourists despite Covid-19 restrictions. She continues to work monthly with 12 young women in spiritual direction sessions and loves every minute. She finds teaching four classes – English, Benedictine Spirituality, Human Development, and Christology – to young women in formation both stimulating and fun. Due to the lockdown, retreat leaders from outside the monastery have been limited; however, Sister Patricia has managed to lead 3 retreats and closed out her time with a final one at the end of July. In February, Sister Patricia welcomed one of her brothers along with his daughter to Namibia and then the three of them traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, which she calls “a truly beautiful place.” The pandemic, though well controlled in Namibia, has restricted Sister Patricia's travels and prevented other guests from visiting her.

This year the [Benedictine Sisters'](#) annual retreat departed from its usual format in which an outside facilitator guides the Community through a three-day retreat. After months of isolation, illness, and uncertainty, the Community decided that this year, the Sisters would meet to share their own experiences from living through this time. [Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB](#) guided the retreat, and the Community engaged in Contemplative Dialogue, a structured method of conversation. Each member received a set of questions to be used for personal reflection and for sharing with the group. The questions were designed to lead the Sisters to meditate on their feelings and more closely observe themselves and others. The questions also included spiritual and scriptural resources which prompted Sisters to contemplate how God might be leading the community into the future.

## Sister Ann Sharp, OSB (1920-2019)

*“...in memory of her.”*



A Chicago native, Sister Ann attended Sullivan High School for two years, and then transferred to St. Scholastica High School. She became a postulant of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago during the fall of 1937, her senior year. She professed her final vows in 1942. Sister Ann attended De Paul University for both her Bachelor's of Education Degree and her Master's in Education.

While still completing her studies, she began teaching at Queen of All Saints in 1940 as a member of the original faculty. In 1945 she taught middle to upper grade students at Mother of God in Waukegan, IL. Sister Ann taught her remaining twenty-three years in elementary education at St. Symphorosa, St. Joseph, in Chicago, IL and at St. Lambert in Skokie, IL. In 1960 Sister Ann ministered in Colorado at St. Michael Parish School in Cañon City. After two years, she was asked to move to

St. Joseph Parish in Salida, CO., where she became principal and superior.

In 1968 she joined the faculty at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago and taught theology classes mainly to freshmen and sophomores, and was senior class moderator for three years. She served as Dean from 1973-1978. Sister Ann was elected Prioress of the community in 1978 and served until 1982. During her term, St. Joseph Court, a two-winged facility, was built at the north end of the 1906 monastery building, to be the health care facility for the Sisters. Sister Ann will be remembered for her fidelity to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, her understanding, empathy, compassion and laughter. She passed away on December 27, 2019.

To read more, visit our news blog at [www.osbchicago.org/news](http://www.osbchicago.org/news) and look for her story posted on December 31, 2019.



*“...in memory of her.”*

### Sister Amy Campbell, OSB (1920-2020)

A native of Denver, Sister Amy chose to enter the Benedictines following her secondary education at St. Scholastica High School in Cañon City, Colorado, where she was a boarder for her junior and senior years. She entered the monastery in 1938. In August of 1940, she made her first profession of vows, and in 1943 her final vows. Sister Amy's long career was in teaching middle and primary grades.

In the Chicago Archdiocese Sister Amy taught at St. Hilary, St. George, and St. John Nepomucene in Chicago, and at Mother of God in Waukegan, Illinois. During her 48 years in Colorado, she served effectively at St. Leander's Parish and then at St. Mary's in Pueblo, St. Michael Parish in Cañon, St.

Michael Parish in Delta, and then as both teacher and principal at the St. Joseph Parish School in Salida. Then, assigned to the Academy in Cañon, she established a pre-school and served as the Director of the Alumnae there.

On retiring to the Monastery, she helped in the Finance Office daily until 2019. Sister Amy always had a peaceful and gentle way about her that made her memorable. Being the matriarch of her family she was beloved, but friends and former students also felt her genuine care. She died on February 27, 2020. To read more about Sister Amy's dedicated life, visit our news blog at [www.osbchicago.org/news](http://www.osbchicago.org/news) and look for her story posted on March 2nd .

### Sister Johnette Sawyer, OSB (1935-2020)

Born in Pueblo, CO., and taught by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago at St. Leander, Sister Johnette Sawyer felt called to join the Benedictines during college. She entered the monastery in 1955. Her first profession of vows took place during the Easter season and her final vows were also made during the Eastertide of 1957. Sister Johnette had a long career in education and liturgical and parish ministry both in Colorado and Illinois. Sister Johnette exemplified a spirit of hospitality and a genuine interest in people. Always ready to welcome and engage in lively conversation, hers was a warm and welcoming spirit that made people feel at home.

On Easter Monday Sister Johnette was hospitalized after she contracted the coronavirus (COVID-19). Three weeks of treatment and care could not save her life, although she gave her all to not succumb. On May 1 she was anointed by the chaplain at St. Francis Hospital, Evanston, IL and she died May 2, after 63 years as a vowed Benedictine Sister.

To read more about Sister Johnette's dedicated life of ministry in both the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Pueblo, CO., please visit our news blog at [www.osbchicago.org/news](http://www.osbchicago.org/news) and look for her story posted on May 14th.

### Sister Joan Gannon, OSB (1923-2020)

Sister Joan was born in Chicago, and her family were active members of St. Jerome's Parish in Rogers Park. After attending St. Scholastica High School, she wrote a letter to the Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in June 1940 to express interest in joining the community. On September 7, 1940, she was accepted as a postulant. On July 11, 1941, she became a novice and on August 16, 1942, she professed triennial vows. Sister Joan will be remembered for being a truly genuine person. She was forthright and spoke her mind. Her life had held both happiness and hardship. She had a cheerful spirit and a ready smile. She appre-

ciated and enjoyed friendly conversations. Whether using one of her several degrees or giving of her time to serve where there was need, Sister Joan was a loyal and committed community member. As the youngest in her immediate family, she was preceded in death by her parents, George and Hannah, her sisters Margaret Mary Flau, Sister Mary Ann Ida, BVM, Aileen Gannon, and Elizabeth Harrell and her brother, Judge John Gannon.

She passed away on May 6, 2020. To read more about Sister Joan's dedicated life, visit our news blog at [www.osbchicago.org/news](http://www.osbchicago.org/news) and look for her story posted on May 18th.





Original artwork by Chicago Oblate Matt Ambre (left) and photos of the March 6 Taizé Prayer Service.

## Oblate News

On March 6, just before the shelter-in-place order went into effect in Illinois, many Oblates, Sisters, and guests gathered in St. Scholastica Chapel for an enriching and memorable Taizé Prayer Service.\* When asked about the experience of planning and participating in the service, Oblate Paula Kowalkowski shared, *"It was a joy to work on this first Taizé Service for the Monastery! It was truly a collaborative and creative labor of love between Oblates and the Sisters. We hope to offer several services throughout the year."* According to Oblate and SSA Chicago Alumna Maureen Kaucher, *"There was a special prayerful and peaceful feeling in the air that night. The chapel holds a meaningful place in my heart, and it was a joy to be able to bring prayers, music, candle lighting, and people together. Paula's reflection was touching and relatable. The service was very exciting because there were a number of new people who came that evening who may have been initially introduced through Judith Valente's talk\*. And people stayed afterward...to continue the peaceful feeling in such a beautiful place."*

Little did we know that the Taizé Prayer Service would be one of the last public gatherings in the St. Scholastica Chapel until further notice.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Monastery was able to welcome Oblates, especially during Feast Day celebrations. Unfortunately, like other places around the world, St. Scholastica Monastery has implemented important precautions, limitations, and the suspension of the reception of guests for the health and safety of our Sisters, especially the most vulnerable Sisters.

These restrictions are especially difficult as Oblates play an important role in our community: serving as art class leaders, porters, musicians, and community volunteers. Fortunately, through the gift of technology, the Oblates have managed to meet virtually for their regularly scheduled monthly gatherings with Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Director of the Oblates in Chicago.



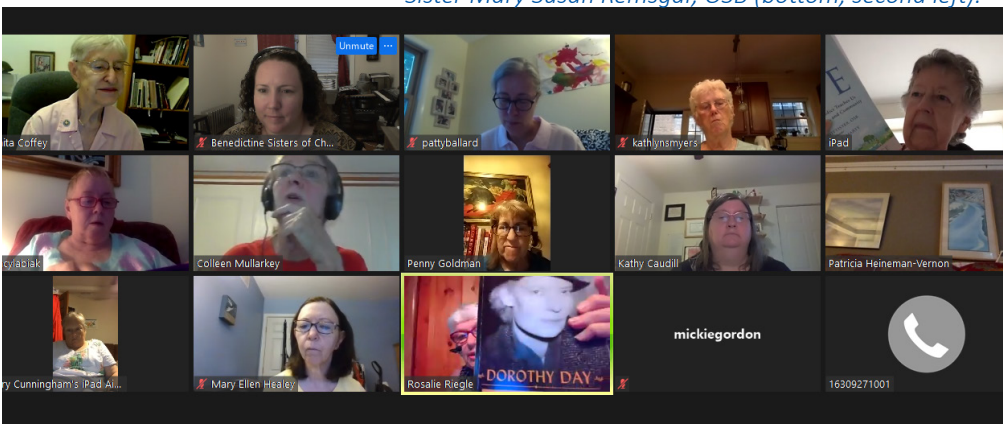
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*“The Covid-19 restrictions are especially difficult as Oblates play an important role in our community: serving as art class leaders, porters, musicians, and community event volunteers.”*

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*Pueblo, CO Oblates monthly virtual meeting with Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB (bottom, second left).*



*Chicago Oblates virtual meeting with Sister Benita Coffey, OSB (top left) who meet on the third Sunday of each month.*

Also, Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB, liaison to the Pueblo Oblates, has similarly gathered the Oblates in Colorado for the monthly virtual meetings of prayer and fellowship. Additionally, many Oblates have coped with the coronavirus pandemic by engaging in creative projects, including mask making, art, poetry, and writing gospel reflections.

Last fall, Sister Virginia Jung, OSB, initiated a monthly Readers' Circle, La Colomba "the dove" providing Oblates another opportunity to connect and explore important social justice works. Their first book was "The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice from the Civil Rights Movement to Today," by Charles Marsh. Due to the pandemic, the group has shifted to virtual meetings where they discuss contemporary works such as "The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage" by Sister Joan Chittister, OSB.

In some ways monastic life, as described by St. Benedict in *The Rule*, is compatible with life in the time of Covid. While our prayer and work has always been inclusive of silence and contemplation, the pandemic has forced the rest of society to slow down and possibly engage more reflectively with less outside noise or distraction.

Though the Benedictine custom of welcoming guests and the practice of hospitality remain limited during the pandemic, we look forward to the day restrictions are lifted and the Oblates can once again gather for mass, monthly meetings, and other events.



*Chicago Oblates virtual meeting with Sister Benita Coffey, OSB (top left) who meet on the first Monday of each month.*

*If you are interested in learning more, please contact Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Director of Oblates, at [bcoffey@osbchicago.org](mailto:bcoffey@osbchicago.org) or 773.764.2413 x327.*





# Our Grounds: A Source of Growth

## By Sister Rita Nowak, OSB

My father was a wholesale florist in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. He was a grower with lots of greenhouses but no flower shop. He learned his trade while working on the grounds of a palace in Poland. He emigrated to Chicago when he was in his 20s. I have many memories of his work: long houses filled with tall mums like a sea of various colors. I loved them. In those years, chrysanthemums were in great demand, often used to make corsages.

Around Christmas time, poinsettias were the flower of choice but their growth started long before December! My dad would purchase what looked like thick tan stems with little branches. They would get green stems and leaves and these shoots were cut off the sticks and put in sand and watered with mists. Since they were tender, they had about 8" glass at the sides of the benches and fine shading up above. Once the shoots were stronger, they were planted in small pots and then into larger pots, etc.

Azaleas were planted outside in spring and covered with manure. I would walk on the other side of the street until the "fragrance" dissipated. Lily bulbs, coming from Holland, had to be picked up at Midway Airport (no O'Hare yet) and that was a fun trip to collect the bulbs.

At holiday delivery time, my mother would go to the greenhouses with my dad and help with the records and the organizing of the orders. Since I was too small to go to school and my older sister went to school, I got to go with my mother and dad. I loved it! I got one of the men to make me a long low bench and I would play "Bakery", displaying paper sweet rolls and whatever I could draw and selling all.

Great memories of the wonderful earthy smells, the cats who could cause trouble for my dad, myself being "in charge" of getting a bench made, and seeing my dad going down the aisles of plants talking to them.

After St. Scholastica High School, I attended Loyola University and then entered the Community. After Postulancy and Novitiate I began teaching at Queen of All Saints in Sauganash, and then at St. Symphorosa Parish near Midway Airport. I also taught in Pueblo, CO, and in Delta, CO, on the western slope of the Rockies discovering how a small town works. After that I taught for a few years at St. Joseph's in the Cabrini Green projects, and later at St. George's parish in the Stateway Gardens projects. These teaching assignments allowed me to get involved in many different cultures. My final teaching assignment was at St. Scholastica High School to teach English. I remember going to my first class, ready with a number of attention-getting methods and found that I didn't know what to do. The girls were all quiet and sat ready to be taught.





I realized after teaching for a total of 25 years, that I would now become involved in jobs at the Priory. After a while, I knew that I was very interested in our grounds. Sister Patti Cielinski, OSB went to the Botanic Gardens and took a pruning class from Tim Johnson, a horticulturist at the Garden, and suggested that I contact him to come and take a look around our place and suggest some improvements. He came one day after work and looked around and said that he would help, jokingly saying, "I don't know where to start!" Help was definitely needed and his enthusiasm encouraged me to start thinking of how best to nurture our grounds.

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*"I can identify the origins of many of my beliefs in regard to nature.."*

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-Sister Rita Nowak, OSB

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I began going to the Botanic Gardens for lectures and workshops. Talking to Tim, reading a lot, taking a good look at our grounds and thinking about a way to make them more friendly, began to stir my enthusiasm. Sometimes situations presented themselves like the Grotto rocks falling making it very dangerous. As well as overgrown grapevines that needed attention and decisions needed to be made. I realized that I was truly drawn to this type of work.

Eventually, as with all of us, I can identify the origins of many of my beliefs in regard to nature. It's really kind of fun to recognize that experiences in my life have shaped my belief in nature now. And, of course, people in my life were part of all this. And so, I began to see our grounds as a source of growth for us, a place where we can watch and learn how nature works. We can grow more attuned to the living energy of creation. We can become respectful of the rhythms of nature and help to provide conditions for

growth, knowing that we are part of this web of life. We can learn to slow down and see and sense the activity in nature and then it's quite simple. We do what we can to provide conditions for life for all-weather, plants or butterflies or the tiny beings in the soil or even humans! We become more aware of obstacles and the source of them and how better to deal with them. We can observe how plants work together, not just their beauty, but their very being. We can pay attention to the developing methods of maintenance and to our thoughts about those methods. We can become aware of developing a healthy and beautiful spot on earth where all living beings can function well.

We can revel in a beautiful moment when color and air and sound and gentle breezes wrap around us, or when we delight in a novel use of our property or provide for really seeing and hearing or just letting be.

Why? Because we are part of the great community of life and we truly want to be a part of it!

*St. Scholastica Monastery gardens and grounds photos by Siobhan O'Neill Meluso, Communications Coordinator for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.*



*“...in memory of her.”*

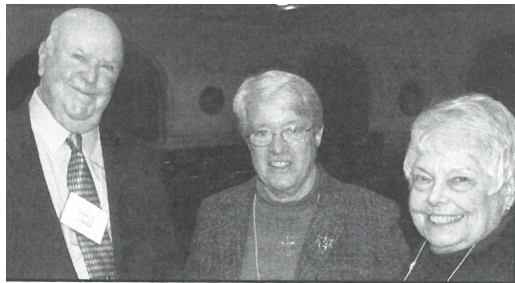


### Dorothea C. Jung (1929-2020)

Dorothea C. Jung (nee Cole), mother of our Sister Virginia Jung, OSB passed away April 18th. Known affectionately by our community as Dot, she lived in our St. Joseph Court Infirmary with our retired Sisters since 2018. Dot will be remembered and missed by our community for her kindness and humor. Beloved wife to the late James Ryan Jung. Loving mother of Virginia Jung O.S.B., Marguerite Jung (David Lindberg), Anita Jung (Thomas Christison) and Mary Jung. Cherished grandmother of Madeline and Daniel Lindberg and Emma Christison and great-grandmother of Louisa. Adored aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt to

many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her brothers George, John and Robert Cole and sister Marguerite (nee Cole) Gallagher. Dot grew up in the South Shore neighborhood and raised her family in Beverly. She is remembered by all who knew her as generous, fun loving and kind. Her family wishes to thank the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago for welcoming her as a guest into their community in her final years of life and the aides and nurses who helped care for her there; as well as the healthcare providers at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston for caring for her in her final days. She is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

*“...in memory of her.”*



2011 photo of Edward Matthei, Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, and Mary Matthei.



Edward Matthei served as the architect for the St. Joseph Court Infirmary pictured in 1980 after its completion.

### Mary Matthei (1928-2019)

Mary Matthei, beloved wife of the late Edward H. Matthei passed away unexpectedly on November 18, 2019. Ed and Mary had known the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago since 1969 when their daughter, Suzanne, became a freshman at St. Scholastica High School in Chicago. Suzanne and her two sisters, Christie and Laura, are graduates of St. Scholastica. All of the Matthei's, three daughters along with their two sons, grew up knowing the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

Edward and Mary Matthei were the Spirit of Benedict Honorees in 2011 at our 17th Annual Testimonial Dinner. Ed is quoted in the 2011 program, "Over the years, Mary and I have consid-

ered the Sisters an extended part of the family. Mary has served on numerous committees and co-chaired many successful fundraising events." Ed was actively involved as a volunteer at SSA, serving on the President's Council, as well as on the finance and building and grounds committees. Ed also served as the architect for the St. Joseph Court Infirmary.

Both Ed and Mary are remembered fondly for the talents they shared, their generous support, and faith-filled lives by their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

*“...in memory of her.”*



### Sheila Hogan Schultz (1930-2020)

Sheila H. Schultz nee Hogan died at age 90 in May 2020. Sheila was a St. Scholastica Graduate of 1948, an active member of the SSA community serving as senior class president, and later continued to share her time and talents on the SSA Alumnae Board. Most recently Sheila served as an Alumnae Representative at her 70th high school reunion in 2018. A life-long friend and generous supporter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sheila is also remembered as the first female Village President of Wheeling. Sheila will be missed by many. Beloved wife of the late Robert

Schultz. Loving mother of Kathy (Tom Hedlin) Ryg, Richard (Marilyn Melton) Schultz, Daniel Schultz, LeeAnn (Al) Ali, Dirk Schultz and the late Ted and Peter Schultz. Dear grandmother of Jeff (Heather), Melissa (Lucas), Derek (Jillian), Karyn (Steve), Lindsay (Eoghan), Erin (Kain), Blake (Sheena), Alyssa (Mike), and Sophia. Great grandmother of Isla, Sabrina, Leah, Jack, Alice, Eleanor, Thomas, George, Kennedy, Gavin, Griffin, Jackson, Camie, Maeve, and Hunter. Fond sister-in-law of Lori (Ed) Schultz the late Sally Hogan and Tom (Pat) Hogan. Aunt, cousin and friend of many.



*"...in memory of him."*

**Jim Ward**  
(1934-2020)

James Ward passed into eternal life on July 11, 2020. He leaves behind a rich legacy of Benedictine values and love in the form of his four daughters, Adrienne '75, Juliet '80, Mary '82 and Elizabeth '84 who were all alumnae of St. Scholastica Academy, as well as his sons, James, John and Daniel and the late Geoffrey. His niece Claire Waldron-Hanlon '88 also attended SSA.

His daughters were not his first introduction to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, as James grew up with four sisters, Alicia Resnick '55, Mary Maloney '61, Virginia Waldron '64 and Ellen Ward '67, who were also proud St. Scholastica High School alumnae, as well as his brothers Jerome and the late Geoffrey.

Believing strongly in Catholic education, James was not only an active member of St. Paul of the Cross Church, but also served on their school board in past years. He lived his faith in assisting others. He also practiced a quiet and dedicated prayer and spiritual life. He leaves behind his beloved wife Kathleen and many other loved family members.



*2015 Testimonial Dinner program book honoring Spirit of Benedict recipient, Alicia Ward Resnick, and the other Ward Scholastics! Both Alicia and Mickey Resnick received the 2015 Spirit of Benedict Award together.*

## In Memoriam

### St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

**Sister Ann Sharp, OSB (1938)**, sister of deceased Virginia Laukaitis (1936)  
**Michael McCaskey**, son of Virginia Halas McCaskey (1939)  
**Sister Joan Gannon, OSB (1940)**  
**Margaret (Peggy) Kane Norris (1941)**  
**Helen Hereley Kilbridge (1943)**, sister of Patricia Hereley (1943) and aunt of Mary Jo Green (1992)  
**Nancy Byrnes Riley (1945)**  
**Margaret Roch Bohman (1946)**, mother of Joanne Bohman Gurion (1969) and Mary Beth Bohman Obeso (1978)  
**Jean Chambers Morin (1947)**, sister of deceased Grace Singleton (1944), aunt of Mary Jo Stegeman (1973), Nancy Lyon (1974), Carrie Stutzman (1976), Ellen McHugh (1978), Donna Van Swol (1979), Laurie Lyon (1983) and Lisa Lyon (1984)  
**Sheila Hogan Schultz (1948)**  
**Margaret Farrow Crumley (1949)**  
**Jack Kyvik**, husband of deceased Carla Murphy Kyvik (1949)  
**Eleanor C. Nauman (1949)**  
**Dorothy Jeanne Schaffer Sullivan (1949)**, sister of Marie Schaffer Collin (1948) and deceased sister Nancy Schaffer Sullivan (1951)  
**Mary Patricia McDonnell Mersch (1950)**, sister of deceased Nancy McDonnell Balog (1951), mother of Marie Mrowczynski (1977), Maureen Mersch (1980), Margaret Mersch (1981), Marlene

Magliozzi (1984) and Marjorie Horvath (1985)  
**Kathleen McCaffrey (1951)**, sister of deceased Mary Ann Beane (1950) and Jean McCaffrey Dreger (1955)  
**Carol Madden Adorjan (1952)**  
**Marilyn Baer Considine (1952)**, sister of Georgiana Baer (1954)  
**John Carmichael**, brother of Nancy Carmichael Collins (1953) and Cathie Carmichael Digangi (1963)  
**Mary Keegan Bowen (1955)**  
**Mary Ottenheimer Laport (1955)**  
**Terese Terry (1955)**  
**Kate Meeker**, mother of Kathy Meeker Severyns (1965) and Mimi Meeker Wherfel (1968)  
**Terrie Heisler Allison (1967)**  
**Nancy M. Baer (1968)**  
**Bernard "Skip" D. Weber, Jr.**, husband of deceased Mary Ellen Bell Weber (1968), father of Rebecca Weber (1997) and Emily Weber Leinauer (2006)  
**Carl F. Eckel**, brother of Mary Eckel (1966)  
**Theresa Ferrara Suerth (1969)**, sister of Amy Ferrara Mikesell (1984)  
**Nancy Riechers Broude (1970)**  
**Carol Connolly (1970)**, sister of deceased Marieanne Connolly (1966)  
**Mary Beth Brennan Reynolds (1972)**, daughter of Mary Lou Gibbons Brennan (1948), niece of deceased Loretta Gibbons McGrath (1948), sister of Colleen Doucet (1973), Margaret Collins (1974) and Kathryn Nicolau (1977)  
**Paul Andrus**, husband of Mary Elias Andrus (1973)

**Russell Le hockey**, husband of Sue Heyn Le hockey (1973)  
**Mary Matthei**, mother of Suzanne Wojtalewicz (1973), Christie Fattore (1975), and Laura Paquette (1978)  
**Cheryl McDonald (1975)**  
**Ken A. Dettloff**, father of Lynn Dettloff Spillane (1979) and Kim Dettloff Lichtenberger (1980)  
**Mary Lee Fahey**, mother of Christine Fahey (1981) and Mary Beth Fahey (1982)  
**Nell Howard**, mother of Colette Howard (1982)  
**Clare M. Westley (1982)**, sister of Ruth Westley Hagan (1983)  
**Daniel E. Murphy**, father of Erin Murphy Bruce (1994)  
**Margaret Jean Kollar O'Sullivan (1996)**, daughter of Cathy O'Toole Kollar (1972)

### St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

**Sister Amy Cambell, OSB (1938)**

*The above represents notices received November 8, 2019 - June 30, 2020.*

*\* Denotes that death was prior to November 8, 2019 but we received notice of their death in the last several months.*





# *Laudato Si* and Ecological Conversion

by Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB

**I**n May of 2015 Pope Francis published his second encyclical *Laudato Si*. It is the first papal encyclical in history about ecology and only the second to be addressed to all of humankind, not just Christians. (The first was *Pacem in Terris* published by Pope St. John XXIII in 1963.) Francis' aim in publishing *Laudato Si* is to **"... enter into dialogue with all people about our common home."** This wonderful document looks at the degradation of the earth, our common home, through a religious and spiritual point of view as well as a scientific one.

In 2016 I was invited by Sr. Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ to join a team of people who were writing homily helps for priests who wanted to preach about Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*. The project was launched by Fr. Michael Agliardo, SJ, then a professor of sociology at Loyola University Chicago, now a research scholar at Santa Clara University and the executive director of the United States Catholic Bureau. The idea came up in an ecology and faith group at the 2015 annual conference of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests and Fr. Agliardo took it on. The group decided to ask Dan Misleh, the founding director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, to post the homily helps on the Catholic Climate Covenant website ([catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://catholicclimatecovenant.org)), and Mr. Misleh agreed to do so.

The homily helps include a commentary that points out the ecological and spiritual links between the scripture readings for the Sunday and passages in *Laudato Si* that correspond to and amplify the message of the scripture. Relevant scripture passages are highlighted as are sections from *Laudato Si* that fit the commentary and the scripture. Two petitions that carry out the theme of the Sunday are included. Bulletin blurbs containing environmental tips are posted elsewhere on the web site.

Currently our team has three members: My colleagues are Fr. Bob Bonnot of the diocese of Youngstown, OH and executive director of the Association of U.S. Catholic priests and Fr. Joe Rozansky, OFM, former director of the the Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation for the Franciscan Holy Name Province and current co-director of the Franciscan Interprovincial Post-novitiate Program located in Chicago. Homilies for the Sundays and feast days for the three yearly cycles of the Sunday lectionary are complete and we are editing them and adding contemporary references.

One of the memorable statements made by Pope Francis in the encyclical is one in which he quotes Pope Benedict XVI:

*The deserts of the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast. For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.*

In 2020 we are confronted with a perfect storm of intersecting world-changing events: a pandemic; growing awareness of systemic racism; protests, some of them violent; political instability; unemployment; and lack of adequate food for many families. Many people are overwhelmed and afraid. Others are isolated and depressed. Students are being deprived of a fuller education. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork can slip far down on our list of priorities as we struggle to cope with the stresses of 2020.





Still, Pope Francis urges us to be ecologically converted. He knows that addressing the impact of human activity on global warming is the ultimate pro-life issue of our time. The encyclical is a call, a *"summons to profound interior conversion."* That phrase sounds serious and scary because it is serious and scary. Francis knows that responding to a call and profound interior conversion are different things. We might read *Laudato Si's* call and feel motivated to engage in some action to address climate change like doing more recycling or reducing our carbon footprint, both good things to do. But interior conversion is a lifelong work. It demands that we see the world differently than the last 200 years of industrial development and our consumerist culture have conditioned us to see, and Francis is aware of the many defenses we are likely to come up with to avoid the discomfort that changing our worldview and our priorities brings. So, ecological conversion demands self-reflection and prayer to sustain it.

Conversion is an important value in the Benedictine *Rule* and in the lives of Benedictines professed and lay. It was so important to St. Benedict that he had his monks make a perpetual vow of *conversatio morum suorum*, (conversion of his/her way of life) which can be understood as accepting at a deep personal level values that can guide our actions and behavioral patterns. This is the work of ecological conversion-to learn as much as we can about what is happening to our common home and develop values that are earth-friendly:

*This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness. First it entails gratitude and gratuitousness, recognition that this world is God's loving gift and that we are called quietly to imitate God's generosity in self-sacrifice and good works...Various convictions of our faith...can help us enrich the meaning of this conversion. These include the awareness that each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us...Then too there is the recognition that God created the world, writing into it an order and a dynamism that human beings have no right to ignore.*

Community is another Benedictine value. In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis expresses his conviction that the world is a community made up of humans and the other creatures that inhabit the earth. In many places in the encyclical Francis writes of the dire need of the poorest members of the earth community.

*A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings ...Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.*

*Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, political, and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming...There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation.*

Care for the earth has been part of the Benedictine charism since the sixth century. Lifelong conversion, simplicity of life, reverence for all people and things, belief that the Divine Presence is everywhere, concern for the common good, and hospitality to travelers and migrants are values taught by both Sts. Benedict and Francis. Can we embrace them in the time we have left and let them motivate us to take practical and effective steps to mitigate climate change?

*Laudato Si* is a prophetic document. It is not another letter from the Pope to Catholics; it is a call to action and solidarity to all the people of the earth to work together for the good of our planet and an urgent plea for debate, action and spiritual growth which Pope Francis sees as essential to the restoration of our common home.





## 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 stocks 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.

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



# Prayer Ministry

*We remember you in our daily prayers.*

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests  
from November 8, 2019 - June 30, 2020

## *Memorials*

In memory of Carol Madden Adorjan

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Jeanne Flood

In memory of Terrie Heisler Allison

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Paul Andrus

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Maureen Kaucher

In memory of Nancy Baer

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Catherine Barone

Michael and Eileen Moorman

In memory of John Felix Battoli

Stephanie Klingelsmith

In memory of Judith Beaumont

Judith Lee

In memory of Mark Beierwaltes

Joanne Spata

In memory of Helen Biesen

Wayne and Peg Wagner

In memory of Margaret and Frank Bishop

Julie Bishop Brown

In memory of Ursula S. Blix

Petra M. Blix, Ph.D

In memory of Rose Lynn Boddie

Janet Hitzman

Jackie LeSanche

In memory of Jacob H. Boss

Coach James and Ruth Sullivan

In memory of Mary Keegan Bowen

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Nancy Riechers Broude

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Clint Brown

Julie Bishop Brown

In memory of Sister Amy Campbell, OSB

Judith Borchers

Andrea Ciccone

Nancy Bryers and Jean Slifer

JoAnn Grenard

Mary Ann Harrington

Marguerite Jung

Alice and Ed Skerjanec

In memory of Kenneth Carlson

Bill and Ellen Wirth

In memory of John Carmichael

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Rosemary Cerami

Joanne Spata

In memory Sarah Clarke

Kathleen Bowman

E. L. Mikkelsen

In memory of Joan L. Coffey

Edward and Mary Coffey

In memory of deceased members of the  
Coffey family

Edward and Mary Coffey

In memory of Elizabeth and Gerard  
Colleran

Sheila Clerkin

In memory of James Colleran

Sheila Clerkin

In memory of the Sisters who recently  
passed

Virginia Collings

In memory of Carol Connolly

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Marilyn Baer Considine

Georgiana Baer

Marilyn Ballard

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Deborah Borkin

Shaun Considine

Mary and Henry Dold

Meghan Duffy

Coleman Foley

Sylvia Hourihane

Barbara Pierce Keeley

Eileen Koenig

Mary Mano

Maureen and Sophia Marcon

Kelly O'Grady

Mike and Marijo Pope

Paula Tiller

Jill and Daniel Toomey

In memory of Joseph Cotteleer

Marilyn Cotteleer

In memory of Margaret Farrow Crumley

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

An Alumna

In memory of Annie Cullen

Margaret Cullen

In memory of George Cullen, Sr.

Margaret Cullen

In memory of John L. Cullom III

Helen M. Slattery

In memory of deceased members of the  
Cullom family

Helen M. Slattery

In memory of Barbara Cunningham

Edward Cunningham

In memory of Joseph Cwik

Patricia Coughlin, OSB

In memory of Sister Victoria Davis, OSB

Steven and Gwenn Suvada

In memory of Walter Emiel De Sloover

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Ken Dettloff

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Carl F. Eckel

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary Eckel

In memory of Jack and Julie Evans

Don and Leslie Dickerson

In memory of Mary Lee Fahey

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Rose Farina

Joanne Spata

In memory of Carolyn Fields

Wendy Sin

In memory of Sister Patty Fillenwarth, S.P.

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Sister Joan Gannon, OSB

Andrea Ciccone

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Suzanne Miller

Brian and Wanda Pabich

Patricia Prusa

In memory of Ellen Braasch Garvey

John and Diana Garvey

In memory of Kathy Geroski

Jill Newberger

In memory of Mary Gersick

Barbara Greenwood

In memory of Stanley Gersick

Barbara Greenwood

In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB

Suzanne Walsh

In memory of Bill Golden

Patricia Finnegan

In memory of Kathleen Golden

Stephanie Klingelsmith

In memory of Antonette Green

Joseph Green

In memory of John and Therese Green

Joseph Green

In memory of Mary, Tom and Carol Green

Joseph Green

In memory of Sally Guzzino

Eileen and Michael Moorman

In memory of Fran Harwas

St. Hilary's Class of 1963



## Prayer Ministry - November 8, 2019 - June 30, 2020

[In memory of Ted Hasbrook](#)

Judith Zonsius, OSB

[In memory of Sister Jeanne Hegarty, OSB](#)

Mike Hegarty and Kristi Arellano

[In memory of Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, OSB](#)

Andrea Ciccone

Mary Jane and Michael Cole

Pam and Steve Hillenbrand

Dennis LaLiberty

Martha Olivier

Catherine and Harry Riley

Mary Beth Schulien

Mary Stearns

Margaret Stemm Sullivan

[In memory of Mary D. Hogan](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Nell Howard](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Richard Hunt](#)

Kathleen Maloney, OSB

[In memory of Peter Jelinek](#)

William Fitzgerald

[In memory of Suzann Marie Judge](#)

Patti Cielinski, OSB

[In memory of Dorothea Jung](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary Clare Brady

Andrea Ciccone

Jim and Annie McLaughlin

Marlene Mitchel

Charles and Margaret Wade

Iva Williams

[In memory of Andrew Kagan](#)

Richard and Mary Marcheschi

[In memory of Anton Kaplan](#)

Margaret M. Cullen

[In memory of Frances Kaplan](#)

Margaret M. Cullen

[In memory of Marshall Kearney](#)

Denise Ryan Kearney

[In memory of Sister Agnes Kelly, OSB](#)

Nancy and Jeff Wagner

[In memory of Georgette and Roger Kesselring](#)

Ruth Kesselring

[In memory of Helen Herely Kilbridge](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Alfred G. Kilgen](#)

Mary Joan and Leonard Truesdall

[In memory of Charles Kilgen](#)

Mary Joan and Leonard Truesdall

[In memory of Mary Lou Kilgen](#)

Mary Joan and Leonard Truesdall

[In memory of Frank Koers](#)

John and Mardo Petrovich

[In memory of Roxanne Krieter](#)

Shirlanne Reynolds

[In memory of Manfred Krupka](#)

Juliana Krupka

[In memory of Sister Juliana \(Gertrude\)](#)

Kunz, OSB

Michael Surdyk

[In memory of Sister Justina \(Hildegarde\)](#)

Kunz, OSB

Michael Surdyk

[In memory of Diane R. Kutchin](#)

Teresa and Richard Brown

[In memory of Jack Kyvik](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Shirley Jerew

Jewel-Osco Corporation

Peter and Anne Johnson

John McDaniel

[In memory of Mary Barbara LaLiberty](#)

Sister Jane Smith, OSB

[In memory of Rose Marie Langill](#)

James Langill

[In memory of James Langton](#)

Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB

[In memory of Dean Larson](#)

Michael and Therese Reynolds

[In memory of Mary Ottenheimer Laport](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Nancy Lind](#)

Kathy and Jeff Caudill

[In memory of Judy Loevy](#)

Siobhan O'Neill Meluso

and Edgar Andrés Meluso

[In memory of Mary "Betty" E. Love](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Valerie Love](#)

Cheryl and John Love

[In memory of Sister Constance Matern](#)

Mary Dageforde

[In memory of Sister Walburg Matern](#)

Mary Dageforde

[In memory of Mary Matthei](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sister Benita Coffey, OSB

[In memory of Judith Wolfgram Matz](#)

Marilyn Ballard and Char Bauer

Lauren Beuerlein

Judith Berger Byers

Patricia Campion

Christine Chevlin

Patricia Cowhey and George Courtney

Christine Brennan Davis, Christopher

Davis and Helen Rose Davis

Kerrie and David Fuller

Patricia Kensel-Hammes

Betty Henneman

Patricia and Wayne Lofthouse

Matthew McCoy

Sheila Ellen McGuire

Dr. Ernest and Deborah Mhoon, Jr.

Alyce Miller

Michael Quinn

Anthony Rizzato

Rizzato and Goldfine Families

Rosarina Rizzato

Susan M. Rizzato

Paul and Tonia Santangelo

Peggy Schermerhorn

Kirk and Nadine Shepard

Donald Sprague

Rick Wolfram

[In memory of Michael McCaskey](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Catherine "Kate" McGovern](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago and

Oblates

[In memory of James E. Meehan, Jr.](#)

Tamiye Meehan

[In memory of Kate Meeker](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Frank Merlock](#)

William Ivantic

[In memory of Mary Patricia Mersch](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Thomas Meyers](#)

Mary Ann and Fred Henning

[In memory of Verge Meyer](#)

Judith Borchers

[In memory of Tom Miller](#)

Richard and Mary Marcheschi

[In memory of Rose Marie Mischke](#)

Gehrke family

[In memory of Vince Mirtich](#)

Ann Lally Mirtich

[In memory of Leroy Mommsen](#)

Patricia Hartman

[In memory of Sister Mercedes Moore, OSB](#)

Dennis LaLiberty

[In memory of Jean Chambers Morin](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary Jo Stegeman

[In memory of Helen McGivern Morrissey](#)

Ann Miller

[In memory of Daniel E. Murphy](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Patricia Coughlin, OSB

[In memory of Margaret Schriver Murphy](#)

Kathleen Murphy Anderson

[In memory of Eleanor Conley Nauman](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Compass Advocates

Virginia Malter

K. Penney Sanders, PhD

[In memory of Richard W. Niemi](#)



## Prayer Ministry - November 8, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Mary Jean Niemi  
[In memory of Margaret \(Peggy\) Kane Norris](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Karen Snyder-Ellwanger  
[In memory of William O'Malley](#)  
Dorothy Rosch  
[In memory of deceased members of the O'Ryan family](#)  
Therese and Michael Reynolds  
[In memory of Jacqueline Osowski](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Ronn Toebaas  
[In memory of Barbara Kob Ostdiek](#)  
Glen Ostdiek  
[In memory of Margaret Jean Kollar O'Sullivan](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of Dolores Pajakowski](#)  
Margaret Pajakowski  
[In memory of Theresa Paterno](#)  
Siobhan O'Neill Meluso and Edgar  
Andrés Meluso  
Joanne Spata  
[In memory of Frank Patzke](#)  
Patti Cielinski, OSB  
[In memory of Denise Perse](#)  
Margaret M. Cullen  
[In memory of Helen Perse](#)  
Margaret M. Cullen  
[In memory of Richard \(Dick\) Perse](#)  
Margaret M. Cullen  
[In memory of Taylor Perse](#)  
Margaret M. Cullen  
[In memory of Bob Porter](#)  
Judith Borchers  
[In memory of George Radacy](#)  
Susan Ernst  
[In memory of Bill Rauscher](#)  
Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB  
[In memory of David Redmond](#)  
Siobhan O'Neill Meluso and Edgar Andrés Meluso  
[In memory of Mary Beth Brennan Reynolds](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of deceased members of the Reynolds family](#)  
Therese and Michael Reynolds  
[In memory of Kathleen Dorgan Rhea](#)  
Gerald D. Rhea  
[In memory of deceased members of the Rhodes family](#)  
Joseph Rhodes  
[In memory of Nancy Byrnes Riley](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of Sharon Rodie](#)

Susan Ernst  
[In memory of Patrick Roemer](#)  
Dorothy Andries  
[In memory of Camille Sabia](#)  
Florence Sabia  
[In memory of Angela Sauer](#)  
Helga Ruby  
[In memory of Sister Johnette Sawyer, OSB](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Judith Borchers  
Andrea Ciccone  
Ann Marie Gradishar  
Philip John Hays  
Patricia Heineman-Vernon  
Marguerite Jung  
Sheila Ellen McGuire  
Russel Orona  
Michael and Therese Reynolds  
Carol and Ralph Santarelli  
Alice and Edward Skerjanec  
[In memory of Carol Schaffer's grandson](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of Rich Schaefer](#)  
Kathy and Jeff Caudill  
[In memory of Sister Mildred Scheetz, OSB](#)  
Anne Scheetz  
[In memory of deceased members of the Schermerhorn family](#)  
Edward and Mary Coffey  
[In memory of Joan and Robert Schermerhorn](#)  
Waring Jenkins  
[In memory of Alice Schmeelk](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of Sheila Hogan Schultz](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of Robert C. Schulien](#)  
Mary Beth Schulien and Jess Macias  
[In memory of Jack Schuster](#)  
Patricia Hartmann  
[In memory of Vincent Sclafani](#)  
Joanne Spata  
[In memory of Jonathan Sedmak](#)  
Judith Borchers  
[In memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Twardy Seppala](#)  
Joan Delisi  
Bernadine Drasler  
Mary Flessner  
Bev Gust  
Betty Jenels  
[In memory of Sister Ann Sharp, OSB](#)  
Judith Borchers  
Andrea Ciccone  
Regina Crowley  
John and Joan Delisi  
Katherine Gehrke

Margaret Hayes  
Constance Healy  
Karen and Bryan LeBlanc  
Marguerite Jung and David Lindberg  
Julius and Marilyn Kolas  
John and Margaret MacNamara  
Patricia and Kenneth Merle  
Bonnie and Kenneth Nordstrom  
Brian and Wanda Pabich  
Helga Ruby  
Janet Sarsha  
Peggy Schermerhorn  
Thomas J. Sharp  
Jeannie and Dean Silas  
Sylvia and Richard Wirtanen  
[In memory of Sister Mary Beatrice Singler, OSB](#)  
Richard Singler  
[In memory of Grace Chambers Singleton](#)  
Marty Jo Stegeman  
[In memory of deceased Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery](#)  
Helen M. Slattery  
[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 Donald A. Smith, Sr.](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
John and Elizabeth Anderluh Jr.  
Sheree Baccay  
Greg and Julia Baker  
Judith Bartels  
Michelle Baum  
Elaine Bolin  
Barbara Bridges  
Jeffrey Cardella  
Joan Cavanaugh  
Eileen Cortese  
Carol Daum  
Sonja Daum  
Deborah Dexter  
Rita and Kevin Doherty  
Mike and Denise Dowling  
Paulette Dugan  
Christine Dworak  
Jane Fahrner  
Richard and Rochelle Fallon  
Linda Feldheim  
Fern Funk  
Timothy Galassini  
Katherine Gaughan McGarry  
Robert Geisheker  
Lori Grier



## Prayer Ministry - November 8, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Mary and Joseph Gross  
Joann Haerr  
William Hickey  
Catherine Ingrassia  
Steven Johnson and Cynthia Daum  
Marie and Eugene Kloss  
Jodi Koslow Martin  
Debra and James Koziarz  
Margherite Lamancusa  
Marybeth Anne and Paul Majerus  
Richard and Mary Marcheschi  
Carol Martini  
Paul Meyer and Beth Alison Spencer  
Marilyn Mueller  
Ruth Mueller  
Charlotte Murphy  
Stephen and Nncy Neff  
Susanne Novak  
George and Mary Jo Olen  
Steve and Francine Palm  
Diana and James Palmer  
Beth Polich  
Prospect Heights Police Association  
Sarah Santana  
Rosemary Satinover  
Elaine Scheffler  
Patricia Senerchia  
Dennis Smith  
Kyle Smith  
Edward and Rosemary Smith  
Rev. Michael Solazzo  
Catherine Timothy Spadoni  
Martin and Jeanne Stanton  
Mary Starsiak  
Diane and Larry Steinert  
Pamela and Ray Stinar  
Sue Szymczak  
Barbara and Gerald Tax  
Carol Tumberger  
Mary Lou and John Waechter  
Ellen and William Wirth  
Barbara Zonsius  
[In memory of Patricia Grimes Smith](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of Carol Anne Kellogg Stoub](#)  
Julie Hock  
[In memory of Terry Ferrara Suerth](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Mary Ellen Davajon Quinn  
[In memory of Dorothy Jeanne Schaffer Sullivan](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Rita and James Testin  
[In memory of John W. Sullivan](#)  
Coach James and Ruth Sullivan  
[In memory of Marguerite Sutor](#)  
David Sutor

[In memory of Larry Swoboda](#)  
Gerry and Gunars Kulans  
[In memory of Bernie Szostak](#)  
Patricia Hartmann  
[In memory of Terese Terry](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of M. Margaret Aragon Toews](#)  
Patricia Reyes  
[In memory of Sister Joanna Trapp, OSB](#)  
Norene Mahoney  
David and Dorothy McCarty  
[In memory of Patricia Turano](#)  
Joanne Spata  
[In memory of James Watsehke](#)  
Patricia Hartmann  
[In memory of Bernard "Skip" D. Weber, Jr.](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of Clare M. Westley](#)  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
[In memory of deceased members of Wieland/Sullivan families](#)  
Maurice Wieland Sullivan  
[In memory of Sister Miriam Wilson, OSB](#)  
Kathryn McCormick  
[In memory of Perry Wilson](#)  
Joanne Spata  
[In memory of Elsie M. Wodishek](#)  
Robert L. Wodishek  
[In memory of Sister Marilyn Wolfram, OSB](#)  
Lauren Beuerlein  
Rick Wolfram  
[In memory of deceased members of Wren and Sullivan families](#)  
John L. Wren  
[In memory of Louis J. Zember](#)  
Ray and Patty Erjavec  
[In memory of Sister Mildred Zember](#)  
Ray and Patty Erjavec  
[In memory of Sister Suzanne Zuercher, OSB](#)  
David and Claudia Zuercher

### *Special Occasions*

[In honor of birthdays for Aunt Barbara, Eddie, Tony Ingrassia, John Olen and Kenny Bartels](#)  
Martin and Jeanne Stanton  
[In honor of Cassidy family and grandchildren](#)  
Martin and Jeanne Stanton  
[In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB](#)  
Raymond and Susan Kehm  
[In honor of Sister Patricia Coughlin, OSB](#)  
Denise Coughlin and Ralph Levy  
[In honor of Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB](#)

Barbara Carrane  
[In honor of Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB on her birthday](#)  
Richard and Nancy Kunnert  
[In honor of Melissa and Dan DeBartolo's wedding anniversary](#)  
Barbara and Edward Bright  
[In honor of Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB](#)  
Sharon P. Wang  
[In honor of Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB on her birthday and Jubilee](#)  
John Brady  
[In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB](#)  
Carol and Edward Finnegan  
[In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on her birthday and Jubilee](#)  
Patricia G. Prusa  
[In honor of Sister Sue Kilduski, OSB for her sharing of her musical gifts](#)  
Mary Ann Kloberg  
[In honor of Josephine Korsovic on her birthday](#)  
Agnes Glavich  
[In honor of Melissa Murphy Larsen](#)  
Kathleen Murphy Anderson  
[In honor of Sister Kathleen Maloney, OSB and the work she does](#)  
Margaret Schramm  
[In honor of Sister Barbara McCarry, OSB](#)  
Mary Lu and Thomas McGreal  
[In honor of Dianne Murphy](#)  
Kathleen Murphy Anderson  
[In honor and appreciation of Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB](#)  
Alissa Ballot  
[In honor of Renate Reichs](#)  
Mark Avery  
[In honor of Sister Susan Remsgar, OSB](#)  
Doug and Sue Smith and family  
[In honor of the Sisters who taught me at St. Lambert School, Skokie, IL](#)  
Sisters Adelaide, Sheila, Joanna, Clare, Mary Thomas and Stanislaus  
Susan and Thomas Reilly  
[In honor of Sister Ann Sharp, OSB](#)  
Janet Furman  
Mary Lu and Thomas McGreal  
[In honor of my siblings and spouses for their upcoming birthdays](#)  
Jeanne and Martin Stanton

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.





The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
invite you to rejoice with them  
in prayer

\*80th Jubilee of Profession  
Sister Amy Campbell, OSB

75th Jubilee of Profession  
Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB

70th Jubilee of Profession  
Sister Callista Kaley, OSB

60th Jubilee of Profession  
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB  
Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB

25th Jubilee of Profession  
Sister Susan Kilduski, OSB

*\*Sister Amy was celebrated posthumously as she died earlier this year on February 27, 2020.*

*Virtual*



**YOU ARE INVITED**

*SSA Chicago  
2020 Reunion*

**September 19, 2020**

**Via Zoom - Registration Required**

## Join us for Reunion

*T*he Alumnae of St. Scholastica Academy/High School Chicago will gather in the next few weeks to walk down memory lane and celebrate their reunion. In these uncertain times of Covid-19, with an abundance of caution, we will not meet as planned this year *in person* but will celebrate virtually! The event will take place September 19th via Zoom, for graduates of St. Scholastica Academy in classes ending in '0 or '5. As soon as it is safe to plan the dinner and mass we will do so and notify alumnae immediately. For more information, visit [www.osbchicago.org/reunion](http://www.osbchicago.org/reunion).





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## *Laudato Si* and Ecological Conversion

By Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB  
*Begins p. 12*