



# Sacro Speco Sacred Space

Vol. XXVI, No. 1

Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Winter/Spring 2016



Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB

## Benedict's wisdom for change

By Sister Pat Coughlin

*"Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run twice as fast as that."*

Lewis Carroll wrote these words spoken by the Red Queen in *Alice Through the Looking Glass* in 1871. One-hundred-forty-five years later most of us feel that we are running at least twice as fast just to keep up with the pace of change in our individual and collective lives, and, even as we run, the same place is no longer the same.

We all know that change is part of life, sometimes joyful and exhilarating, sometimes in the form of great loss. Often change, either joyous or tragic, brings us a sense of uneasiness. We can feel like strangers, no longer at home in a familiar place. If the change is radical enough we can have the sense that our security, safety, control and identity are threatened.

When this happens we can freeze, become numb. We can become bitter about the losses this change entails. We can become fundamentalists, clinging tightly to a tradition without realizing that the tradition has been changing constantly. We can make small adjustments, just enough to live with the change. We can embrace the change wholeheartedly. Whatever our reaction, we can take some time from running to discern the call within the change and our response to it.

St. Benedict lived at a time of change. In

the sixth century the old order enforced by the Roman Empire was crumbling, and barbarians were breaching its boundaries. In withdrawing from the decadence around him and writing a document that furthered the evolution of the monastic tradition he inherited, he created a new order centered on contemplation and emphasizing a balance between work and prayer, stability and lifelong conversion.

We live in an age of deeper changes than those of the sixth century, an age in which the discoveries of science have challenged the worldview of our ancestors in faith. Cosmology, physics, paleontology, ecology, brain research, psychology, scripture studies, historical studies, theology, computer science and the intrusion of cyberspace into our lives have led to radical changes in the way we understand the vast universe we live in and our place in it, the nature of material beings, how we make choices, where we come from, how our bodies function, even who God is and how God relates to the world. No wonder many of us feel mentally and emotionally exhausted from running to keep up. No wonder fundamentalism is on the rise throughout the world.

What does the Benedictine tradition have to say to all of this? Perhaps the answer lies in its ability to hold opposites: solitude and community; silence and dialogue; contemplation and ministry; structure and spontaneity; fasting and feasting; stability and conversion. The

*"Where in my life am I running to keep up, and how can I be gentle with my exhausted self?"*

Continued on page 6

# Winter/Spring Issue 2016

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## Sisters, pg. 4

Learn the latest about the sisters.

## Oblates, pg. 7

Welcome new oblates.

## Alumnae, pg. 8

View photos from reunion.

## Friends, pg. 10

Discover upcoming spirituality programs.

## Prayer Ministry, pg. 12

We hold you in our prayers.

## Annual Report, pg. 17

Thank you for your generosity.



*St. Scholastica Academy Alumnae and former staff came together from across the country for reunions Cañon City and Chicago. See photos and more starting on page 8.*

## Sacro Speco, 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 x371. 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!

# Message from the Prioress



Sister Judith Murphy OSB  
Prioress

Dear Friends,

Something about the beginning of a new year encourages that we think about change: change we might consider for this year; or, changes we've experienced over the past year, some inevitable and others chosen.

Recently, a friend recommended a little book to me, *Always We Begin Again: The Benedictine Way of Living* by John McQuiston. It adapts the Rule of Benedict to the circumstances of contemporary life. The title suggests an attitude of openness and hope. And the practice of routine contemplation of scripture, called for in the Rule of Benedict, helps us develop perspective to learn from our everyday experiences. It brought to mind Dag Hammarskjöld's book *Markings* where he wrote, "Let me read with open eyes the book my days are writing---and learn."

Two of the Benedictine vows we take also speak to those of us faced with daily changes: "stability" and "conversion through a monastic way of life." They lay out a blueprint for life. With the first vow, Benedictines commit to a particular group of people; and in the second vow each accepts the reality that living day by day with others in community in a Gospel and ecclesial attitude of love will call for conversion and facilitate conversion over a lifetime. This conversion is growth away from self-centeredness and toward service and consideration for others.

These two vows are not only useful for those living in religious communities but for all of us Christians who are faced with modern life's daily changes and seek a path through it all. I hope this issue of *Sacro Speco* speaks to the changes you are facing and lets you know that through it all, we are walking the journey with you!

In peace,

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

Judith Murphy, OSB

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## Letters From You

### REMEMBRANCE

A year has slipped by since the death of Cecilia McNulty Woods (SSA, Cañon City, 1962). Although no letter reached you at her passing, the following thoughts express the admiration--and love--we had for Cec. Prior to her death on August 9, 2014, she and I talked and laughed daily, and in those phone chats she shared stories from her years at St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon City, Colorado. She asked that I write of those events for her.... The stories make up "The Book

of Cecilia"--a unit in my book called "Glimpses...Now I Can See." The entire book is dedicated to Cec--for her life, for her love, for her laughter.... She held nothing but admiration for the Sisters--her teachers and friends, and for her classmates, not only in the class of 1962, but also in those that preceded and followed.... Thank you for all the memories and love.

-Elizabeth A. Roberts, PhD  
(SSA, Cañon City, 1962)

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

# Monastery News

When **Sister Susan Kilduski** took trumpet lessons as a young woman, she probably never dreamed they would help her ministry as a Benedictine Sister. After entering the Benedictines, she discovered she could use her musical talent as a ministry: playing taps at veteran memorials. She said that a recent experience was one of the proudest of her life: playing taps for a 50th Anniversary event that honored Milton Lee Olive III, the first African American recipient of the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War. During the war, Olive saw an incoming grenade and used his body as a shield to protect his comrades in service. While he did not survive, others did and were forever grateful. We are so proud of Sister Sue and her ability to share her musical talent at special occasions such as this.

**Sister Vivian Ivantic** celebrated her 102nd birthday on August 28, 2015. She recently joined **Sister Belinda Monahan**, the monastery's Vocation Minister, in giving a presentation to a class of Northwestern University students who are studying Catholicism. The two sisters shared highlights from the monastery's history, including pictures of the sisters over time, old hymnals, and other memorabilia. The class also visited the chapel at the monastery and learned about the sisters current life of prayer and service. The students enjoyed the visit and we loved hosting them!

Benedictine women's monasteries around the world created a forum in which to meet, build relationship, and support one another. This forum, begun in 2001, is called *Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum* (CIB). **Sister Patricia Crowley** serves as a representative from North America in her role as president of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses. She attended the international gathering

in France during September where sisters gathered from countries as far away as Brazil and South Africa.

To commemorate the Vatican's *Year of Consecrated Life*, **Sister Benita Coffey** prepared an Open House for our Rogers Park Neighbors in August and **Sister Virginia Jung** coordinated a special vespers service in September. The Vatican announced this special year to encourage vocations and highlight the lives of men and women religious who have dedicated themselves to serving the church. The monastery's communications office has also participated by sharing stories and images in our online media and with the United States Conference of Bishops' social media office to help raise awareness about the Benedictine sisters.

Our community celebrated the jubilees of six sisters this year. "Jubilees" are the anniversaries of the day that our sisters professed vows to become Benedictines. Since the last newsletter, four sisters commemorated their jubilees and renewed their vows. This includes: **Sister Amy Campbell** (75 years), **Sister Victoria Marconi** (70 years), **Sister Kathleen McNamara** (70 years), and **Sister Mary Melady** (50 years). Thank you for your years of service, sisters!

Many friends of the monastery knew Peter Zonsius, **Sister Judith Zonsius'** uncle, through his charitable ministries. Since his death, Sister Judith has carried on the administrative work to ensure Uncle Pete's Ministries continues as a charitable organization. Among the many ministries, last year volunteers delivered 12,000 suppers to families in need! Sister Judith and Uncle Pete's Ministry was honored with an award by the Paluch Family Foundation in October for their commitment to serve as Christ did.



**Sister Victoria Marconi** is in her 90s, but she still keeps up a ministry of letter writing. Letters pour in every week and she answers each one, sharing God's love through the medium of pen and paper. Recently, a young man asked if there was a sister who could be his prayer partner while he studies to become a priest. We knew Sister Victoria was perfect for the assignment. The two have kept up a correspondence and in August he came to meet his sister in faith and they took this joyous selfie!



## {Sister Story}

# Sister Rita Nowak

*Sister Rita entered the monastery in 1952 and made her final profession to become a sister in 1957. She has served in a number of roles, most recently as the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor at the monastery.*

Sister Rita has skillfully served as a teacher, principal, and sub-prioress throughout her 63 years as a Benedictine sister. It was in her role as the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, however, that she happily returned to working close with the earth that she first fell in love with as a child.

Sister Rita's father was a wholesale florist in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago and her mother would assist him in caring for the flowers. Rita would go along with her to the greenhouses where the workmen had made her a low "bench." She remembers, "drawing and coloring bakery goods and cutting them out and placing them on the bench" as if it were a bakery. She also recalls "the greenhouses were warm and full of growing things, wonderful light and earthy smells and cats." The holidays were the busiest times and she says "whole greenhouses were filled with gold or russet or lavender or red at Christmas and white and yellow and purple at Easter--I loved it! I didn't know how much this became a part of me."

It was only later that she stumbled into caring for the grounds of the monastery. "I found that my work on the grounds was a favorite." She has been caring for the monastery's grounds over the last 30 years.

Over the summer, Pope Francis issued an encyclical about the care of the earth titled, *Laudato Si*. The church has often held a high regard for the care of God's creation. Sister Rita remembers, "When I entered, Sister Evelyn, our Novice Mistress, instilled in us the concept that work is holy. In fact, The Rule [of St. Benedict] is filled with statements of respect for everything and everyone.... our life together supports the concept of care for all of creation."

Pope Francis' encyclical on the earth was timed at this particular moment in history to address the massive climate change that is occurring and to encourage Christians to take steps towards the care of the earth.

To learn more about how to care for the earth, Sister Rita has some recommendations. First, she suggests reading about how humans are destroying our common home. More importantly, she says, "go outside and really look at things, listen and feel nature.... You will get to love the earth and then recycling, etc. will be a part of you!"



“...let the Universe into your life!  
-Sister Rita

She also recommends setting aside quiet time to read and reflect with books such as *Radical Amazement* by Judy Caniano, *Ancestral Grace* by Diarmuid O'Murchu, *The Universe Story* by Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry, or *Ask the Beasts* by Elizabeth Johnson.

Sister Rita also encourages people to consider simple living. She remembers cleaning a Sister's room after she passed away and seeing her simple style of living. "She could have had so much more but what she had was enough."

In order to help people get in touch with God's creation, Sister Rita oversees the monastery's community garden where people in the neighborhood who live in apartments with no access to land can tend a plot for vegetables and flowers. She believes that if you "get in touch with your heart and with your gut feelings [you can] let the Universe into your life!"

It was, in part, the land that drew her to the monastery. "At St. Scholastica Academy, I got to know the Sisters. They led me into an interest in social movements and the wonderful world of biology. It felt right to join them." The Sisters are grateful she did!

promise of stability is not simply a pledge to stick around. It is a grounding in the reality of our lives. Rather than a frantic rush from one thing to another, one project to another, it is a profound acceptance of this particular place and these particular people as one's way to God. The promise of conversion is not a commitment to engage in a static keeping of a rule, but, "a recognition of God's unpredictability, which confronts our own love of cosiness or safety. It means that we have to live provisionally, ready to respond to the new whenever and however it might appear." (Esther de Waal in *Seeking God: the Way of St. Benedict*.)

Stability is necessary for us to keep our feet on the ground. Conversion is necessary to keep us from becoming mired in that ground and so cease to engage in lifelong transformation. Professed Benedictines make formal vows of stability and conversion, but these two qualities are necessary for anyone

seeking to live a full human life.

As we enter 2016, change and the way we are with the changes in our lives might be a helpful subject for reflection: Where in my life am I running to keep up, and how can I be gentle with my exhausted self? What changes in my life are positive, and how can I be thankful for them? Are there any losses that have come with life changes, and do I need to grieve them? What am I being called to do or be through these changes?

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*By Sister Pat Coughlin. Pat has ministered in the field of education and psychotherapy for 56 years. She currently serves as a Supervisor at the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy. She also serves on the Monastic Council as secretary for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.*

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## In Memorium:

### *Sister Mildred Zember*

Helen Kathleen Zember was born May 17, 1925, to Frances Cerbo and George Zember, in La Veta, Colorado. Their three daughters and three sons were raised on their farm. They were a devout Catholic family where the faith was clearly important and parents were exemplary teachers and models of strong Christian values.

She entered St. Scholastica Monastery on September 8, 1944. Helen received the name Sr. Mildred at the time of her reception as a novice on July 11, 1945. She professed triennial vows on August 16, 1946, and pronounced perpetual vows on that date in 1949.



With her first year of college already completed in Colorado, she now continued her studies at DePaul University where she was awarded the Bachelor of Philosophy degree. Sister Mildred began her many years of teaching at Queen of All Saints and St. Hilary schools in Chicago.

In the mid-1950's, she was assigned to parish schools in Colorado, first in Pueblo, then in Salida. Many summers over the years, Sister Mildred frequently served in "vacation schools", the religious education programs for parishes where there were no parochial schools. On returning to the Chicago area, she ministered in religious education at Mother of God Parish in Waukegan, Illinois, and then at Saint Symphorosa. She also engaged more actively on the archdiocesan level and became a certified Director of Religious Education, worked as District Catechist for ten years, and held a position on the Archdiocesan Religious Education Board for three years. She was a recipient of the Catechetical Ministry Award from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

In 1983 she became the Director of Religious Education at Queen of the Rosary Parish in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, her last assignment. She also received her Masters degree in Religious Education from Loyola University Chicago in 1986. After retiring, she assisted with the Oblate Program which had always been an interest of hers. A special highlight of her life was to be one of a hundred chosen to receive Holy Communion from Pope St. John Paul II when he celebrated Mass in Chicago. Another was the summer of 2000 when she attended the Benedictine renewal program in Rome.

Sister Mildred died peacefully at the monastery on the morning of October 12, 2015. Her funeral was held Friday, October 16, 2015 at St. Scholastica Chapel and she was interred in All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois. She is survived by her sister Wilma Zember Brown and many nieces and nephews.

# Colorado Oblates Form Leadership Team

Lay leadership within Oblate groups is a growing trend among U.S. Benedictine communities. Sister Joan Hentges has led the Colorado Benedictine Oblates, but as she prepared to retire to St. Scholastica Monastery in Chicago this summer, she knew that a different structure was needed to support the Oblates.

A leadership team was formed from among the Colorado Oblates and now six members help lead the group, with Sister Joan acting as a mentor from a distance. The leaders range in age from 50s to 70s. They recently met and shared some of their thoughts on the new role they have taken as a team.

"We are working to keep the group viable with the widest participation possible and to avoid dependence on one person as leader," they wrote in an email. They believe everyone deserves an opportunity to lead and look forward to having one person rotate off the team and one new person rotate onto the team each year. They hope it will provide an array of representation from among their fellow Oblates.

They also want to ensure people feel welcomed to share their ideas, even if they are not on the leadership team. "We ask the Oblates what they think at the meetings, as well as receive private input from them."

On a regular basis, the leadership team focuses on planning their monthly meetings, preparing readings for the year, coordinating an Advent retreat, organizing an Annual Social, recruiting and forming new Oblates, etc. It is a lot of work, but they hope that over time, they can continue to make the Colorado Oblates a "vibrant, life-giving Oblate group that utilizes the gifts of everyone in the group to help us learn to carry the Benedictine charism into the world." With such an intentional team, we have no doubt that they will!



*Colorado Oblate Leadership Team (pictured top row, left to right) James Kramer and Richard Dudley (bottom row, left to right) Rose Higgs, Phyllis King and Connie Counts Godfrey. Not pictured, Dan Leetch, who assists the team.*

# Two Women Join Chicago Oblates

Two women, Rosalie Riegle and Mary Rose Close made their Oblation to become Benedictine Oblates in St. Scholastica Chapel on September 20, 2015. Both women had studied Benedictine spirituality for many years before entering into this life-long commitment. "I've always been interested in Benedictine spirituality," reflected Rosalie. "Having quiet prayer time at the beginning of each day helps to unite the disparate parts of my still-busy life." It was prayer that also drew Mary Rose Close to this day. "I wanted to establish a connection with [the sisters] and to be praying with them." Welcome Rosalie and Mary Rose!

*Mary Rose Close (right) and Rosalie Riegle (middle) make their Oblation.*





# ST. SCHOLASTICA ACADEMY, CHICAGO

## 2015 Reunion Weekend, October 17 & 18



See the full album of photos  
<http://on.fb.me/1RxVqSy>



More than 200 alumnae gathered in Chicago for the 2015 Alumnae Reunion Weekend celebrating the classes of '0 and '5. The weekend included a wine reception, dinner, and class photos at the Jean Marie Ryan Center on Saturday. On Sunday, the attendees gathered for the Alumnae Memorial Mass, an honored tradition to remember classmates who have passed away and to give Benedictine medals to the 50th anniversary class. After the Mass, there was a reception and the doors of the school were opened for tours. Alumnae took the opportunity to walk the halls of the school, reminiscing and sharing stories with their families. What a memorable weekend!

(from top row to bottom row, left to right) Former principals Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, '60 and Judy Borchers, '58 pose for a photo at the reunion. Patricia Coughlin, OSB, '57, talks with two alumnae about the St. Scholastica and St. Benedict mural during the campus visit on Sunday. A group of alumnae from the class of 1970 gather around their table at the Saturday evening dinner. Joanne Bookstein, '65, gives the 50th anniversary class address. Susie Randle Craig '70, left, poses for a photo with her mother Rosie Randle, a former staff member. Alumnae fill the Jean Marie Ryan Center's elegant banquet hall for the Saturday night dinner.



(at right) Alumnae of all ages gathered at The Abbey Winery for a tour, tasting, and reminiscing.



## ST. SCHOLASTICA ACADEMY, CAÑON CITY

### 2015 Reunion Weekend, August 14-16

Alumnae of St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City and The Abbey gathered together in August for the 2015 All-Class Alumnae Reunion Weekend. Gathering from near and far, alumnae enjoyed the full weekend of activities that included a visit to The Abbey Winery, dinner, campus tours, Mass, and more. Sister Benita Coffey, the last sister principal at the school, traveled to Cañon City for the reunion festivities. Next year's reunion is set for August 19-21. Make sure to save the date! See the full album of photos: <http://on.fb.me/1RxXGcj>

## In Memoriam

### St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

Marie B. Rubly Molloy (1937)  
(deceased 2014)  
Jeanne Lochner Keuth (1938)  
Georgette Kesselring (1941)  
Mary Ann Fallon Farmer (1945), sister of  
Jane LoSasso (1959), mother-in-law of  
Lynne Farmer, former Head of School  
Carol Stutz Hopkins (1945)  
Margaret Egan Namovic (1947), mother of  
Margaret Carr (1975), Jeanette Namovic  
(1976), Kathleen Jensen (1977),  
Marian Namovic (1981), and Loretta  
Namovic (1984)  
Sheila Murphy Hulseman (1953), sister of  
Eileen Samuelson (1955) and Judith  
Murphy, OSB (1960)  
Donald Andries, husband of Dorothy

Delacoma Andries (1954)  
Germaine Barkemeyer (1954)  
Mary Fahey Klodzinski (1958)  
Trudy Campion Anderson (1960), sister of  
Patricia M. Campion (1957)  
Deborah Walsh Longstreet (1961), mother  
of Jennifer Halman (1992) and Jeanette  
Longstreet (1995)  
Sally Godfrey Arpe (1962)  
Jean Moloney Leisten (1963)  
Michele "Missy" Kunze (1964)  
Sandra Lee Knutson McHugh (1965)  
Barbara Jean Bergquist Radley (1965)  
(deceased 2013)  
Thomas E. Carrell, Jr., husband of Jane  
Ryan Carrell (1966)  
Elizabeth Hoffmann Ahumada (1978),  
sister of Mary Ellen Swee (1973), Teresa  
O'Keefe (1974), Jean Bomberger (1980),

and Catherine Williams (1984)  
Mary Mills (1978)  
Maria Basantes, grandmother of Susana  
Cordova-Gegner (1984)  
Teresa Gallen (1994), sister of Philomena  
Gallen (1989) and Ann Marie Gallen  
Nee (1992)

### St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

Jean Kimmick Butler (1960)  
Ceilia McNulty Woods (1962)  
(deceased 2014)  
Rose and Felix Taylor, parents of Michelle  
Taylor (1987)  
Sara Elder Donohue (1990)

*The above represents notices received  
June 1, 2015 - October 26, 2015.*

## Where is God calling you?

- Do you feel God is calling you to something more in life but you're not sure what it is?
- Do you long to live a life of prayer and service?
- Are you searching for a community where you can become fully yourself?

We invite you to discern God's call in your life. Whether you are called to single life, religious life, or married life, God has a plan for you.

If you wonder if God may be calling you to become a Sister, contact Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB at [vocation@osbchicago.org](mailto:vocation@osbchicago.org) or 773.338.7063. Sister Belinda is the Vocation Minister, helping women discern God's call in their lives.



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## Memories

The grotto was a favorite place for sisters, friends, and alumnae to gather for quiet prayer or, as in the photo below, a family photo! Over time, however, the grotto's rocks became unstable and, as a result, unsafe. The sisters were forced to remove the upper rocks but wanted to keep the prayerful space. A few years ago, they turned the spot into a place for quiet reflection, adding a table and chairs while keeping the lower rocks and old iron fence. It remains a beautiful area for the sisters to rest, reflect, and pray.





# Spirituality Programs, Spring 2016

## Lenten Series on Mercy and Forgiveness

February 13-March 1

Facilitated by Sister Patricia Crowley and Sister Benita Coffey

## Eco-Spirituality

April 30

Facilitated by Sister Mary Melady and Sister Rita Nowak

## Dream Workshop

May 5, 12, 23, 26

Facilitated by Sister Patricia Coughlin

## International Labyrinth Day

May 7

Coordinated by Sister Mary Melady

Visit our website [osbchicago.org/programs](http://osbchicago.org/programs) to learn more about these upcoming events and to find registration details. We look forward to seeing you at the monastery this spring!

*Below, people listen to a presentation at last year's International Labyrinth Day before walking the guided prayer structure. The labyrinth remains open 365 days a year during daylight hours.*



## Connect with Your Benedictine Community

Whether you are seeking to deepen your prayer life or searching for a faith community, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago invite you to get involved with the Benedictine community.

[Join us on Facebook or Twitter](#)

Find out about upcoming programs, see the latest photos, or join the conversation. Follow us at twitter.com/OSBChicago or click "Like" on our Facebook page at facebook.com/BenedictineSistersofChicago.

[Enjoy Daily Prayer or Sunday Mass](#)

Join the Sisters for prayer in the morning or evening or come for Sunday mass. For information, visit our website at [www.osbchicago.org/prayer](http://www.osbchicago.org/prayer) or call 773.764.2413 x230.

[Become a Supporter](#)

We are grateful for our many prayer and financial supporters and hold you daily in our prayers. If you are interested in becoming a financial supporter, visit [osbchicago.org/donate](http://osbchicago.org/donate) or call the Director of Development, Joanne Spata, at 773.764.2413 x233.

[Sign up for the Email List](#)

Register your email at [osbchicago.org/email](http://osbchicago.org/email) and receive monthly e-newsletters and other special notices about news and events.



# Prayer Ministry

*You have been remembered in our prayers.*

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests  
from June 2, 2015 - November 1, 2015.

## *Memorials*

**In memory of Bob Abt**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Dolores Aguirre**  
Joanne Spata

**In memory of Elizabeth Hoffmann  
Ahumada**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Trudy  
Campion Anderson**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Judith Borchers  
Patricia Campion  
Marilyn LaManna Sewall

**In memory of Donald Andries**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Sister Patricia Cielinski, OSB  
Kathy and Jeff Caudill  
Katherine Gehrke  
Maureen Kaucher  
Greg and Judy Matz  
James and Cecile Mikulski  
Sister Margarita Walters, O.S.B.

**In memory of Sally Godfrey Arpe**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Germaine Barkemeyer**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Maria Basantes**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Sister Maurus  
Becker, OSB**  
Harold Perry

**In memory of Joseph Biesinger**  
Karen Kelly

**In memory of Michael Bowers**  
Patricia Heineman-Vernon

**In memory of Helen and Karol Brandys**  
Mary Cielinski

**In memory of Joseph Bredemann**  
Sally Noonan Bredemann

**In memory of Jake Brown**  
Karen Kelly

**In memory of Jean Kimmick Butler**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Thomas L. Butler

**In memory of Marilyn Carpentier**  
Vanessa Garvy

**In memory of Thomas E. Carrell, Jr.**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Jane Ryan Carrell

**In memory of Philip Caudill**  
Maureen Kaucher

**In memory of Borys Chermak**  
CARE Organization

**In memory of Angeline and  
Michael Cieslinski**  
Mary Cielinski

**In memory of Ann Cieslinski**  
Mary Cielinski

**In memory of Mary B. Cipolla**  
Terrence D. Boyle and Chung Hwa Lee

**In memory of Kathleen, sister of  
Mary Connor**  
Barbara Boland

**In memory of Pat and Patty Crowley**  
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

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

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

**In memory of Judge Richard Cudahy**  
Judith Borchers

**In memory of Ola Cook-Mbah**  
Nkeiruka I. Mbah

**In memory of Irene Stock Cormack**  
Dorothy Stock Hancock  
Jacqueline Stock Seley  
Rose Ann Stock Foster



## Prayer Ministry - June 2, 2015 - November 1, 2015

**In memory of Mary A. Cornella**  
Robert and Elizabeth Cornella

**In memory of Ada Burns Crampton**  
Charlene Balkin

**In memory of Joseph Crean**  
Sister Frances Crean, RSM

**In memory of Mary Elizabeth Connolly Crean**  
Sister Frances Crean, RSM

**In memory of Bernabe Cruz**  
Joseph and Bernadette Browne

**In memory of Eleanore DeRose**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Frances L. Dickman**  
Joanne Spata

**In memory of Sara Elder Donohue**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Helen Dorgan**  
G. D. and K. M. Rhea

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**In memory of Sister Judith Elms, OSB**  
Sister Patricia Cielinski, OSB

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Gregory and Judith Matz  
Ann and Louis Metzger, Jr.  
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**In memory of Theodore Itschner**  
Patricia Hartmann

**In memory of Arlene McGrath Jorgensen**  
Mark B. Jorgensen

**In memory of Anton Kaplan**  
Margaret Cullen

## Prayer Ministry - June 2, 2015 to November 1, 2015

**In memory of Frances Kaplan**  
Margaret Cullen

**In memory of Violet A. Karpinski**  
Bernard Karpinski

**In memory of John Keating**  
Paula K. Keating

**In memory of Georgette Kesselring**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Ruth Kesselring  
Virginia Lamana

**In memory of Jeanne Lochner Keuth**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Mary Fahey Klodzinski**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Patricia Kowalewski**  
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**In memory of Semen Kravetskiy**  
Sister Susan Kilduski, OSB

**In memory of Sister Hildegarde  
(Justina) Kunz**  
Michael Surdyk

**In memory of Sister Juliana  
(Gertrud) Kunz**  
Michael Surdyk

**In memory of Michele Kunze**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Jean Moloney Leisten**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Anita Carteaux  
Andrea Ciccone  
Anne Porter

**In memory of Anne Lesnak**  
Bernadine Drasler  
Marguerite Drasler  
Judy and Jim Moll  
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**In memory of Lloyd Maday**  
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**In memory of Ellen M. Manning**  
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**In memory of Carroll Martin**  
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**In memory of Margaret Martin**  
Patricia Martin

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

**In memory of Lynne McCabe**  
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**In memory of Thomas McCarter**  
Sister Patricia Cielinski, OSB

**In memory of Robert McCray**  
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**In memory of Eugene McGuire**  
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Oblates

**In memory of Sandra Lee  
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Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of David and  
Rosellyn McKinney**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Sister Mary Benet  
McKinney, OSB**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Jan McNamara**  
Maureen Blackburn  
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**In memory of Jan and Edwin  
McNamara**  
Sister Kathleen McNamara, OSB

**In memory of William (Bill) Mella**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Katherine Sherman

**In memory of Mary Mills**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Marie B. Rubly Molloy**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Sister Frances Crean, RSM

**In memory of Anna Mueller**  
Helga Ruby

**In memory of J. Demetriss Murray**  
Barbara Lock Hickman

**In memory of the deceased members  
of the Francis J. Murray family**  
Ann Murray

**In memory of Margaret Egan Namovic**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Sister Jane Smith, OSB

**In memory of Cecilia Olsen**  
Joanne Spata

**In memory of Robert Olson**  
George Olson  
Nancy Olson

**In memory of Barbara Jean Bergquist  
Radley**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Jack O’Ryan**  
Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, OSB

## Prayer Ministry - June 2, 2015 to November 1, 2015

**In memory of Mary Yvonne O’Ryan**  
Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, OSB

**In memory of Margaret A. Ottenheimer**  
Mary M. Laport

**In memory of John Panfil**  
Michael and Eileen Moorman

**In memory of Mary Panton**  
Dr. Frank L. Karkazis family  
Sister Susan Kilduski, OSB

**In memory of Helen Perse**  
Margaret Cullen

**In memory of Richard (Dick) Perse**  
Margaret Cullen

**In memory of Leo Petkus**  
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Sister Amy Campbell, OSB

**In memory of Sister Rosemarie Rugar, OSB**  
Bernice Krasovec

**In memory of Marie Sabia**  
Teresa and Richard Brown

**In memory of Mildred Sawyer**  
Marilyn Graybill

**In memory of Harold Schoene**  
Joanne Spata

**In memory of the Schorsch family**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Sister Beatrice Singler, OSB**  
William Singler Murray

**In memory of Lee Solis**  
Karen Kelly

**In memory of Jeanne Spanknebell**  
Lois MacDonald Simms

**In memory of Mrs. Staranowicz**  
David Zasada

**In memory of deceased members of the Sullivan family**  
John L. Wren

**In memory of Rose and Felix Taylor**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Edward Tourdot**  
Jeff and Kathy Caudill

**In memory of deceased members of the Trapp family**  
Catherine and George Trapp, Jr.

**In memory of MiMi Hall Uhlmann**  
Karen Kelly

**In memory of Ida May VanDuyne**  
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**In memory of Gladys Widlowski**  
Karen Kelly

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**In memory of Bajda Wojciech**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Cecilia McNulty Woods**  
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**In memory of deceased members of the Wren family**  
John L. Wren

**In memory of Rose Louise Yates**  
Richard and Stephanie Klingelsmith

**In memory of Sister Mildred Zember, OSB**  
Cynthia Bachmann  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Patricia Campion  
Rev. Robert Oldershaw

**In memory of the mother of Nicole Zeri**  
Cheryl and John Love

**In memory of Peter Zonsius**  
Barbara Zonsius

**In memory of Sister Suzanne Zuercher, OSB**  
Andrea Ciccone  
Paula K. Keating  
Marilyn McIntosh  
Valerie Stockmar

### *Special Occasions*

**In honor of James and Allison Bernsteine on their marriage**  
Sister Susan Kilduski, OSB

**In honor of Sister Amy Campbell, OSB on her 75th Jubilee**  
Kathy and Jeff Caudill  
Marie Cushing  
Richard Fields

**In honor of Sister Amy Campbell, OSB who served SSA and the people of Canon City, Colorado so devotedly**  
Emily Hartman

## Prayer Ministry - June 2, 2015 to November 1, 2015

### In honor of Sister Patricia Cielinski, OSB

Maureen Kaucher  
Mary Sotir

### In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB

Kathy and Jeff Caudill

### In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on her birthday

Thomas and Sharon Coffey  
Bernice Krasovec  
Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon

### In honor of Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

Bob and Bunny Carrane  
Kathy and Jeff Caudill  
Mary Pat Buckley and Russell Johnson  
Jane Hennessey  
Rita Killeen  
Gary and Mary Ann Kono  
Patricia and James Miller  
Roberta Folonie Schuetz  
William Van Houghton

### In honor of Sylvia and John Hourihane on their 50th wedding anniversary

Kathy Statz Rees

### In honor of Yolanda Imhoff on her birthday

Patricia Heineman-Vernon

### In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB

Patricia G. Prusa

### In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on her 102nd birthday

Linda Kneesel Barnard  
Andrea Ciccone  
Eileen and Lawrence Klonowski  
Bob and Ann Kneesel  
Florence Steele

### In honor of Penny Kerndt

Jenny and Nick Semaca

### In honor of Sister Anne Krall, OSB who served SSA and the people of Canon City, Colorado so devotedly

Emily Hartman

### In honor of Jane LoSasso

DeVerille A. Huston

### In honor of Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB on her 70th Jubilee

Kathy and Jeff Caudill

### In honor of Sister Kathleen McNamara, OSB who served SSA and the people of Canon City, Colorado so devotedly

Emily Hartman

### In honor of Sister Kathleen McNamara, OSB on her 70th Jubilee

Kathy and Jeff Caudill

### In honor of Sister Mercedes Moore, OSB on her 80th Jubilee and 100th birthday

Sharon Bordui

### In honor of Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, on her election and installation

Patricia Campion  
Kathy and Jeff Caudill  
Jane LoSasso

### In honor of John Olen on his 49th birthday

Martin and Jeanne Stanton

### In honor of Mary Ann Presberg on her 80th birthday

Kathleen and Bob Anderson

### In honor of Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB on her 25th Jubilee

Kathy and Jeff Caudill  
Richard Fields  
Patricia Heineman-Vernon  
Mary Kane  
Greg and Judy Matz  
Roberta Michaletz  
Ellen Radel  
Jennifer and Brian Winberry

### In honor of Alicia and Myron Resnick

Nellie and Sheldon Fink  
Andrea London, Beth Emet Synagogue  
Mary Sotir

### In honor of Catherine Rusalem on her birthday

Sister Victoria Marconi, O.S.B.

### In honor of Sister Joanna Trapp, OSB

Richard Fields

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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

*Annual Stewardship Report  
Fiscal Year 2015*



## Message from the Prioress



Sister Judith Murphy, OSB

Dear Friends,

Once again we settle into the quiet days of winter and the start of a new year. It is naturally a time of contemplation of our experiences and of appreciation for all that the year has been, and for the blessings that abound in our life. You are one of those blessings!

Thanks to your support, our ministries and mission continue to flourish in Chicago and beyond. In the spring we began to offer spirituality programs at the monastery, in addition to our many individual ministries that we do such as Sister Kathleen's parish ministry and Sister Virginia's pastoral counseling. With your donations and volunteer hours, our sisters in the infirmary have the healthcare they need and a lively environment in which to thrive.

We are grateful to all of you for your generous support of us as a community; your generosity helps us to live as community with one another, give service where there is need, and provide a compassionate presence to our world. We pray for you daily for your prayers and generosity that are such an important support to us. May your generosity to us be richly blessed!

Peace and blessings to you!

Judith Murphy, OSB

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## List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order. Please see pages 30-31 for a listing of donors who gave in-kind donations, and for those who donated to Uncle Pete's Ministries.

We are grateful to each of you!

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# Your Generosity Supports Our Ministries

Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand is a sister with a big heart. For more than 20 years, she has taken part in prison ministry by writing letters to inmates.

This year, she received this painting, pictured at right, from a woman to whom she has been writing for two decades. The woman may be behind bars, but she has turned her life around. She feels that God has given her a chance to minister within the walls of the jail to her fellow prisoners. She created this painting as a way of expressing her gratitude to Sister Eleanore's long and uplifting companionship.

On behalf of Sister Eleanore and all our sisters who serve, we thank you for making our ministries possible.



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# Letter from the Director of Development

Dear Friends,

One of the most pleasant aspects of my position is meeting so many of you, our dedicated supporters and generous benefactors. I especially enjoy sharing in your stories regarding your unique experiences with the Sisters. Each of these tales offers a moving tribute to our Sisters, possessing one common theme; "The Sisters really made a lasting impression on my life".

Please know that through your friendship and support you have in turn made a major impact on the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago's lives too! And for this we are most grateful to you. Through your generosity you not only honor the past by caring for our retired Sisters, but you enable our religious community to continue in their ministry today. We are truly grateful that together with you, we serve the people of God, in the spirit of the Gospel.

We also deeply appreciate the members of our Benedictine Legacy Society. We thank you for planning ahead and leaving a lasting imprint on our future. We are honored to be remembered in your final testament to your life's work, values and beliefs. It is through your selfless act of naming us in your Will or Bequest, that you not only testify as to what is important to you during your lifetime, but you also make an investment in our future.

Thank you again for all that you do for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Please know that the Sisters deeply appreciate your partnership with them and your continued support. You are each remembered daily in their prayers, and in mine too.

With deepest gratitude,



Joanne Spata  
Director of Development

## A Special Thank You

We offer special thanks to the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation that helps support some of our sisters who need extra care in the St. Joseph Court Infirmary. This Foundation's generosity has made a great difference in their lives.

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*“I thank my God  
every time  
I remember you.”*

*-Phillipians 1:3*

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## Your Gifts Support our Elderly Sisters

Thanks to your support, our sisters are going to have an extra warm winter. Last year you helped us seal the windows in the infirmary to keep things cozy and increase the efficiency of our heating system. This year, thanks to your generosity and the on-going help from our end-of-year appeal, we are going to install new storm windows and update the thermostats in the monastery building where eight of our sisters over 75 live, along with other sisters. We also extend our gratitude to the many volunteers and donors who have helped enrich our Sisters' lives with classes in art, music, exercise, and more. The infirmary and monastery is a lively center for learning and living, thanks to your on-going support.



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

*-2 Timothy 1:3*

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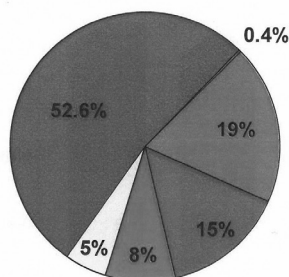
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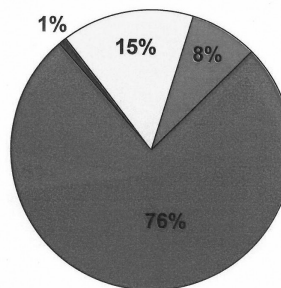
Total Revenues & Gains = \$2,765,576

(Graph does not include loss on the sale of equipment of \$33,943.)

■ Srs. Comp. & Benefits	\$540,272
■ General	\$412,195
■ Srs. SS Benefits	\$227,476
□ Int. Div. & Gains	\$145,893
■ Contributions	\$1,463,408
■ Other*	\$10,275

\*Other includes: Property damage ins. reimburse. and gains on beneficial interest in Trust.

### Revenues and Gains



Total Expenses = \$2,509,419

(Graph does not include realized loss on investments of \$657)

■ Members Support	\$1,909,933
■ Ministry Support	\$19,572
□ Admin & General	\$383,686
■ Depreciation	\$195,571

### Expenses and Losses



# Benedictine Legacy Society

**The following benefactors remembered the Benedictine Sisters  
in their wills or trusts for which bequests or gifts were made  
during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.**

Frank A. Fatur  
Andrea Hammann  
Patricia Hanson  
Elsie Hulse

Irene Nowak  
Patricia Redmond  
J. Phillip Reichmann

**These generous friends join fellow Legacy Society members  
who remain in the Sisters' thoughts and prayers:**

Anonymous  
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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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Please keep the sisters, oblates, alumne, and friends in your prayers. Your prayer support helps sustain us!

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Your planned gifts ensure that your legacy of caring will continue. If you would like to learn more about remembering the Sisters in your will or trust, please contact us or have your estate attorney do so.

#### Questions?

Contact Joanne Spata, Director of Development, at 773.764.2413 x233.

*Every effort has been made to accurately acknowledge our donors' gifts for the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.  
We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!*

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spirituality and action  
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**Benedictine Sisters of Chicago**  
St. Scholastica Monastery  
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*Begins after page 16*

