



# Sacro Speco

## Sacred Space

THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE + WINTER/SPRING 2019



## The Prioresses of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

A History of the Community Leaders

# Winter/Spring Issue 2019, vol. XXIX, no. 2



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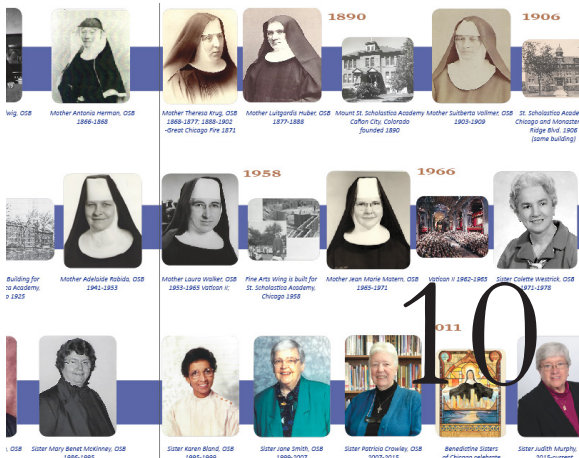
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## Sacro Speco is a publication of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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 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!



# Letter from the Prioress



*Sister Judith Murphy, OSB  
Prioress*

*D*ear Friends,

*Ora et Labora.* Pray and Work. These action words sum up the fullness of our Benedictine life and our lives in the monastery. They describe the daily schedule and identify a rhythm in our shared life, a balanced rhythm that over a lifetime shapes the person each one of us becomes. We pray to discern what work to do and how to do it and we work to serve where there is need.

About sixty years ago a French nun wrote a small book about such daily life in a monastery: "The Life of Little St. Placid." Its line drawings and lettered story presages some of the graphic novels we see today. In it Placid's former school friend who had gone to the Roman army came to visit and asked, "*What do you do all day?*" Placid describes life in the monastery this way: "*You could say that we sing our life and we live our song.*" A description that still works.

Benedictine sisters arrived in Chicago in 1861, and this issue of [Sacro Speco](#) shares a time line of the women selected by their sisters to serve as Prioress, and we hear directly from some who served over the past 40+ years. We are grateful for all these years of grace.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Murphy, OSB".

Judith Murphy, OSB



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## Letters From You

### ALUMNAE REUNION MEMORIES

Dear Sr. Judith,  
I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful reunion weekend hosted by the Benedictine Sisters. I think it was the best reunion yet; holding it at Misericordia lent to a more personal and formal feel. It was nice to have all the alumnae in one room and the facilities at Misericordia are lovely.

Most sincerely and respectfully,  
Kristine Homan '88

### 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

The summer of 2018 brought both warm weather and occasions for outdoor gatherings on our beautiful monastery grounds. The scenic gazebo, surrounded by rows of thriving grape-vines, played host to many community picnics, Oblate barbeque, and staff lunches. On the Tuesday after Labor Day, **Sister Rita Nowak, OSB** organized the yearly fall clean-up: a collaboration with DePaul University students who provide this day of service as part of their Catholic Studies Program. Since 1999, St. Scholastica Monastery has partnered with DePaul for this annual tradition.

Multiple peace and justice initiatives have kept our Sisters busy. On September 15th, at the Catholic Theological Union in Hyde Park, **Sister Benita Coffey, OSB**, active with Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, planned and participated in the *Unaccompanied Immigrant Children: Responding with Love, Mercy, and Justice* event, a discussion of current immigration and detention issues. **Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB** was a featured speaker at one of the breakout sessions; she addressed the birth of Bethany House of Hospitality and described how this organization cares for women seeking asylum. On September 21st, Sister Benita marked the 70th Anniversary of the UN's International Day of Peace with an evening prayer vigil. More recently, our Sisters attended area-wide events commemorating the Pittsburgh's Tree of Life victims at a local synagogue.

On October 7th, **Sister Virginia Jung, OSB** hosted *Columbia Welcomes the World: Benedictine Sisters and Students at the World's Fair*, a Chicago Open Archives event held in St. Scholastica's community room. During a panel discussion, **Prioress Sister Judith Murphy, OSB**, the founding principal of Cristo Rey, described the school's beginnings (now network of Cristo Rey schools) and noted the 20th anniversary of its first graduating class. Also on the panel, Sebastian P. Wuepper, a Ph.D. Candidate in History from Loyola University Chicago, discussed the migration of German immigrants to Chicago, providing a context for our Benedictine community's founding. Informative table displays showcased 1893 artifacts and student work reflective of this historic time. (see page 31).

From October 17-20, 2018, three Benedictine Sisters representing the Federation of St. Scholastica paid our monastery a **canonical visitation**. This "every-six-years" assessment provides collaborative feedback offering support, advice, and direction. The Federation Visitors confirmed that the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago continue to do extraordinary work. We are grateful to our Visitors and the Visitation Committee for their guidance and preparation.

In November, at the National Religious Vocation Conference biennial Convocation in Buffalo, NY, NRVC board member and our very own **Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB**, spearheaded an important panel for young Catholics and Vocation directors. During the live-streamed event, *You Talk. We'll Listen, And Together We'll Grow* younger Catholics discussed the church's challenges and gifts and described how the vowed religious can better connect with them. Following the Convocation, National Vocation Awareness Week (Nov. 4-10) was celebrated in the daily prayers of the Sisters. In addition to these yearly or biennial events, Sister Belinda welcomes young single women ages 18-50 to the *Listen: Discernment Group* on every third Saturday of the month to discuss books, films, and questions regarding the discernment journey. For more information or to register please visit: [www.osbchicago.org/programs](http://www.osbchicago.org/programs)

## Canonical Visitation 2018

*Pictured left to right is the Federation of St. Scholastica Visitors and Benedictine Sisters of Chicago Visitation Committee:*

*Sister Kathy McNany, OSB, Emmanuel Monastery, Baltimore, Maryland, Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Sister Jacquelyn Ernter, OSB, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota, Sister Kathy Maloney, OSB, Sister Lynn McKenzie, OSB (Federation of St. Scholastica President), Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Alabama, and Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB.*



## Save the Date!

### St. Scholastica Academy Chicago

### Reunion Weekend:

September, 21-22, 2019





## Oblate News

*H*aving completed their period of orientation to the Benedictine way of Life, several candidates from both Pueblo, CO, and Chicago, IL joined the St. Scholastica Monastery Oblate community in August and in November, 2018. On August 18th, Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Director of Oblates, and Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB witnessed the Oblations of Loretta Hernandez and Regina Dow, and the reception of Patsy Lowry as a candidate. The rituals took place in the chapel of the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Pueblo. Additionally, Sister Mary Susan used the opportunity to speak about working as the new liaison between the Colorado Oblates and the Monastery in Chicago. She spoke of looking forward to "walking the journey with them."

On Sunday, November 11th five candidates made their final Oblation in the St. Scholastica Chapel in Chicago. Mary Ellen Healey, James Holzhauer-Chuckas, Patty Rudolph, Mickey Smith, and Rosanne Swanson were received as Oblates by Srs. Judith Murphy, OSB and Benita Coffey, OSB. Barbara Wahler

*"I was looking  
to enrich  
my spiritual life."*

*-Mary Ellen Healey SSA  
Chicago '77*

was received as an Oblate candidate.

"I was looking to enrich my spiritual life," said Mary Ellen Healey on becoming a Benedictine Oblate. She and her brothers were educated by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago at St. Hilary's Parish School and Mary Ellen went on to St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago graduating in 1977.

When Mary Ellen was just five years old her father died. It is the memory of the Sisters's comfort and guidance during that difficult time that consoles her. Through her years of education from the Sisters, Mary Ellen recalls the message to serve. At one point she even considered becoming a Benedictine Sister of Chicago. Now as an Oblate, she hopes to give back what she was given and continues to be given to her in the spirit of St. Benedict.

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.



*Left to Right: 1). Sister Benita with new Oblate candidate Barbara Wahler and Prioress Sister Judith Murphy, OSB. 2). New Oblates James Holzhauer-Chuckas, Rosanne Swanson, Mary Ellen Healey, Sister Benita, Sister Judith, Mickey Smith and Patty Rudolph. (Chicago, IL).*



## Six Living Prioresses

A Prioress's role in our community is essential. She balances stability and growth and ensures all Sisters's voices are heard. According to St. Benedict, the Prioress is "to hold the place of Christ in the monastery." (RB 2:2) . Each of the nineteen women who have held this important position for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago made significant contributions in service to God's people. In this issue of *Sacro Speco*, six living Prioresses reflect on their experiences.



Sister Ann Sharp, OSB  
Prioress from 1978-1982

### *An Expansion for our Aging Sisters*

Sister Ann Sharp's years as Prioress were marked by her kindness, warmth, and attention to each sister and her support of the variety of their ministries. Additionally, during this period, St. Joseph Court Infirmary was planned, built, and introduced as the "new" home for our aging Sisters who formerly lived on the Monastery's second floor. Also, the Sisters began driving themselves to their ministries and appointments. In 1978, the Altar Bread Department closed and the Archives began in that second-floor room above the laundry where

Sister Vivian Ivantic was appointed the Community Archivist. Additionally, the Sesquimillennium of St. Benedict (480-1980) marked many community celebrations worldwide for all Benedictines. Key Peace and Justice initiatives took place during Sister Ann's term including the establishment of a Benedictines for Peace local chapter. Additionally Sister Miriam Wilson was respected for her work as chaplain at Cook County Jail, and Sister Judith Beaumont practiced civil disobedience by protesting the Trident nuclear submarine.



Sister Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB  
Prioress from 1982-1986

### *A Young Leader*

When Sister Mary Ann O'Ryan was elected Prioress, she was one of the youngest of the 132 sisters in our "filled to the gills" community. She met individually with each member of the community and came away inspired by their dedication. She was impressed with the sisters's positive attitudes despite the travails they may have endured.

Most importantly, she was moved by the honest, vulnerable nature the normally reticent sisters showed. She felt privileged to hear their stories and to this day treasures those meetings as sacred. These precious moments influence her life and remain an inspiration as time goes on.



Sister Karen Bland, OSB  
Prioress from 1995-1999

### *An Academic Meets a Future Saint*

Before becoming Prioress, Sister Karen Bland was Assistant Vice President and Associate Academic Dean at Wheeling Jesuit College (now University). At the very moment the college was gearing up to receive the new academic year's first-year students, Sister Karen was elected Prioress. She had to bridge completing her responsibilities at the college with her new role within our community. As Prioress, Sister Karen got to know and collaborate with like-minded Sisters and meet Benedictine women

worldwide at a Benedictine Symposium in Rome where she had a private audience with Pope John Paul II. Serving as Prioress helped Sister Karen further develop administrative and personal skills that have proven valuable in her current ministry at Grand Valley Catholic Outreach. Her greatest memories as Prioress: listening with an open heart, overseeing the monastery's finances, soliciting donations, journeying with Sisters during their declining years, and thanking our many donors.



Sister Jane Smith, OSB  
Prioress from 1999-2007

*A Time of Change*

Sister Jane Smith's predecessor, Sister Karen, applied for a grant to assess the condition and the usage of our buildings in Chicago and Colorado. When funds were received, Sister Jane hired consultants to help set the direction of the community in a guided year of study followed by a six month period of deliberation. The outcome was difficult: a decision to close our Academy in Cañon City and sell the property.

During the remainder of her first term and into her second, she oversaw the redistribution of goods and assets, the relocation of the Cañon Sisters, and the closing of the corporation of Saint Scholastica Academy- in Cañon City. These challenging years were important steps necessary to fund our Sisters's retirement and allow our community to downsize with dignity.



Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB  
Prioress from 2007-2015

*International Benedictines*

During Sister Patricia Crowley's first term as Prioress, she served on the board of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). At that time, the Vatican conducted an historic Apostolic Visitation of Women Religious "to look into the quality of the life of religious women in the United States" as well as a Doctrinal Assessment of LCWR. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago were the first U.S. Benedictine community the Visitors saw. She recalls the tremendous support other Benedictines, laity, and clergy gave the community. During her second term, she was elected to the office of President for the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses (CBP). In this role, she was a delegate to the Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum (CIB),

the international organization for Benedictine women, with whom she traveled to Rome, West Africa, France, and Brazil. However, it was journeying with her own Sisters in illness and death that she treasures most from her tenure. In 2011, the year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Benedictine Sisters settling in Chicago brought joy and renewal for the community. Unfortunately, in continuation of the work that Sisters Karen and Jane began in assessing the needs of the future of the community, Sister Patricia and the community made the hard choice to close St. Scholastica Academy-Chicago. This was, indeed, her greatest challenge as Prioress.



Sister Judith Murphy, OSB  
2015-Current

*A Time of Inclusion*

As the current Prioress, Sister Judith Murphy understands that in Benedictine communities all members are to be involved in decision making. Historically when Sisters entered religious life they were likely drawn to the ministry of teaching in which the Sisters engaged. Many of the Sisters, including Sister Judith, are former teachers and principals. Much of our ministry has evolved into less institutional or spiritually based ministries.

We strive to serve where there is need. Our Sisters have worked in homelessness, immigration, spiritual direction, and counseling, parish ministry and many other ministries; some Sisters continue in these works today. Some of these works were concurrent with teaching in parishes and our academies. The Sisters's work continues to be rooted in Benedictine spirituality and in our call to seek God in prayer and community, serving where there is need.



For the past 157 years, the many Prioresses of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago have made meaningful and lasting contributions within our own community. We are forever grateful for their service.





## St. Scholastica Alumnae & Teachers Reunite



Photos, top row, left to right, 1) 2013 Alumnae with Dr. Lynne Farmer at the SSA reunion in Chicago, 2) Alumnae are pictured with second from left Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB and Andrea Ciccone '53 (center) in the Chapel following Alumnae Mass; Second row, left to right, 1) 50th reunion SSA grads (1968) take a tour of the Monastery and School and pose for a photo, 2) 1953 Alumnae pause for a photo with Sister Callista Kaley, OSB following Mass 3) Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, and 1968 Alumna grab a quick photo in the Chapel; Third row, l to r, 1) 1983 SSA Alumnae during cocktail hour at reunion and 2) 1988 Alumnae are all smiles at the reunion dinner; Bottom row at cocktail hour of SSA reunion Chicago, l to r, 1) 1958 Alumnae 2) 1948 Alumnae and 3) Kathlyn Myers (left) with 2008 Alumnae.





*Left to right: 1) SSA Cañon City pre-reunion lunch at the Bean Pedaler coffee shop in August 2018. Left to right: Mercedes (Torres) Downie '96, Alycia McKone Cantrell '96, Mrs. Sally Feith, Shelli Bland '97, and Sr. Benita Coffey, OSB. 2) Sister Benita, Sister Amy Campbell, OSB, Mercedes (Torres) Downie '96, and Alycia McKone Cantrell '96 snap a selfie when these Alumnae visited St. Scholastica Monastery in July 2018.*

## Cañon City 2018 Reunion

Each year the Abbey Events Complex hosts an Alumni Weekend in Cañon City the third weekend in August. This year Sister Benita Coffey, OSB attended and was also invited to join SSA Cañon City Alumnae for lunch with former school nurse Mrs. Sally Feith prior to the Abbey Reunion events. It was especially memorable as Mercedes (Torres) Downie '96 and Alycia McKone Cantrell '96 had made a trip out to Chicago in July to reconnect with Sister Amy Campbell, OSB who at 98 is unable to travel. Sister Benita enjoyed both events, for twice the fun with the Alumnae both in Chicago and in Cañon City!

## In Memoriam

### St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

**Father James A. Colleran**, son of deceased Elizabeth Hartigan Colleran (1928), brother of Sheila Clerkin (1956), Mary Louise Baldwin (1971), Colleen Smyrniotis (1973), deceased Regina Ernst (1975), Eileen Wright (1977) and Kathleen Timotijevic (1983)  
**Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM**, sister of Sister Joan Gannon, OSB (1940)  
**Loretta Williams Downes** (1941) (deceased 1/10/2018\*), sister of deceased Margaret Williams McNamara (1943)  
**Patricia Moran Hiassen** (1945) (deceased 6/16/2016\*)  
**Robert Hiassen**, son of deceased Patricia Moran Hiassen (1945)  
**Roxanne Stephan O'Brien** (1948) (deceased 9/24/2014\*)  
**Betty Horan O'Grady** (1948) (deceased 9/19/2012\*)  
**Mary "Ginny" Fitzpatrick Cronin-Wadden** (1949) (deceased 7/18/2017\*), mother of Maureen Cronin Tamillow (1969) and Brigid Cronin (1978)  
**Joanne Molony Hopkinson** (1951), sister of Mary Ellen Brady (1946)  
**Margaret Eiden Stein** (1953), sister of Barbara Eiden Gauer (1952)  
**June Bland**, sister-in-law of Sister Karen Bland, OSB (1954)  
**Robert Borchers**, husband of deceased Bridget Hennessey (1956), brother of Judith Borchers (1958) and Amy Borchers Ewert (1964)

**Thomas F. Hogarty**, husband of Marge McCluskey Hogarty (1956)  
**Ed Jacobs**, husband of Janet McDonald Jacobs (1957)  
**Mary Ellen Andries Stuermer** (1957)  
**Julianne Benedict Derken** (1958)  
**Mary Ellen Mahoney Graf** (1958), sister of Joanne Mahoney Schwabe (1950)  
**Ellen Quinn Holian-Mykrantz** (1958)  
**Nancy Joan Langelund Sedin** (1958), sister of Patricia Langelund Funk (1961)  
**Jennifer Bland Lugiai** (1958), mother of Michele Lugiai (1981) and sister of Sister Karen Bland, OSB (1954)  
**Marie Elaine Carr Rigby** (1960), mother of Debby Rigby-Rose (1980) and aunt of Kathleen Supsic (1967)  
**Kathleen Reed** (1963)  
**George Seidenbecker**, husband of Anne Nickel Seidenbecker (1963), brother-in-law of Mary Nickel Dahlberg (1965) and Nancy Nickel (1972)  
**Ann Gaffke Kavanaugh** (1968) (deceased 5/28/2014\*), sister of deceased Judith Gaffke Hedberg (1961)  
**Joan Helen Meersman**, mother of Anne Gorman (1969), Patricia Meersman (1973), Jean Dorsch (1974), Virginia Campbell (1975), Susan Tebbetts (1978), Lynn Salinas (1984), and Kay Szramek (1986)  
**Laura Kraman**, daughter of Mary Burke Siemsen (1970)

**Jillian Elizabeth Hansen**, daughter of Cecelia Crook VanOver (1972)  
**Kathleen M. Walsh Deger** (1973), sister of Patricia Walsh Pindelski (1968) and Mary Walsh Olszewski (1970)  
**Maureen Shockey Wells** (1973), sister of **Bridget Shockey Turner** (1972)  
**John Spellman**, brother of Sharon Spellman (1977), Mary Spellman (1979), Kathleen Spellman Susman (1981), and Deborah Spellman Eappen (1983)  
**Patricia Hanlon**, mother of Mary Anne Hanlon Newman (1983)  
**Ignacio C. Córdova**, father of Susana Gegner (1984) and Cindy Pelrine (1987)  
**Claire Eileen Owen**, mother of Elizabeth Owen Smith (1997)

### St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

**Carolyn Weaver Duncan** (1948), sister of Marian Weaver Darling (1953)  
**Faith McMahon Smith** (1955)  
**Jennifer Bland Lugiai**, mother of Melissa Lugiai Rhines (1987)

*The above represents notices received June 1, 2018-November 1, 2018.*

*\* Denotes that death was prior to June 1, 2018, but we only received notice of their death in the last five months.*



# The Prioresses of the

1861



*Mother Frances Knapp, OSB  
1861-1862*



*Mother Nepomucene Ludwig, OSB  
1862-1866*



*Mother Antonia Herman, OSB  
1866-1868*



*Mother Philomena Linbeck, OSB  
1909-1921*



*Mother Imelda Fischer, OSB  
1921-1941*

1925



*New School Building for  
St. Scholastica Academy,  
Chicago 1925*



*Mother Adelaide Rabida, OSB  
1941-1953*

1980



*Sister Ann Sharp, OSB  
1978-1982*



*St. Joseph Court Infirmary  
wing is built for Monastery  
1980*



*Sister Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB  
1982-1986*



*Sister Mary Benet McKinney, OSB  
1986-1995*



# Benedictine Sisters of Chicago



*Mother Theresa Krug, OSB  
1868-1877; 1888-1902  
Great Chicago Fire 1871*



*Mother Luitgardis Huber, OSB  
1877-1888*

**1890**



*Mount St. Scholastica Academy  
Cañon City, Colorado  
founded 1890*



*Mother Suitberta Vollmer, OSB  
1903-1909*

**1906**

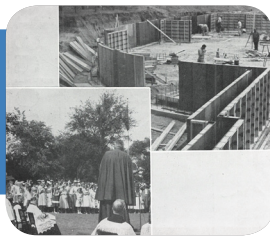


*St. Scholastica Monastery  
and Academy in Chicago  
(in the same building)  
Ridge Blvd. 1906*



*Mother Laura Walker, OSB  
1953-1965  
Vatican II*

**1958**



*Fine Arts Wing is built for  
St. Scholastica Academy,  
Chicago 1958*

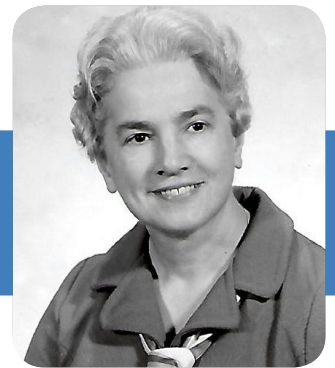


*Mother Jean Marie Matern, OSB  
1965-1971*

**1966**



*Vatican II 1962-1965*



*Sister Colette Westrick, OSB  
1971-1978*



*Sister Karen Bland, OSB  
1995-1999*

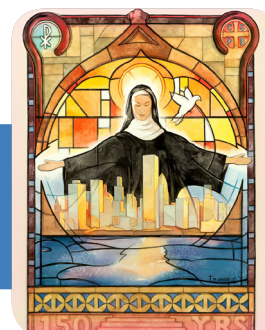


*Sister Jane Smith, OSB  
1999-2007*



*Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB  
2007-2015*

**2011**



*Benedictine Sisters  
of Chicago celebrate  
150th Anniversary in 2011*



*Sister Judith Murphy, OSB  
2015-current*



# Join us for these upcoming events

## **Feast of St. Scholastica Mass**

Sunday, February 10, 2019

10:30 a.m.

To attend, contact:

Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, 773.764.2413 x230

## **Crispina and Her Sisters:**

### **Women and Authority in Early Christianity**

A presentation by Sister Christine Schenk, CSJ

Sunday, February 17, 2018

3:00-4:30 p.m., free

Open to the public.

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

## **National Catholic Sisters Week 2019:**

### **Movie Night**

Celebrate #NCSW with us!

Monday, March 11, 2019, free

To learn more, contact:

Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 773.338.7063

## **Discernment Retreat**

Friday, March 15-Sunday, March 17, 2019

Young women (18-50) are invited for a spring weekend Discernment Retreat.

To learn more, contact:

Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 773.338.7063

## **Dreams and Spirituality**

Led by Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB

Friday, March 29, 2019 7- 9 p.m. &

Saturday, March 30, 2019 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

\$65 suggested offering including lunch.

For more info or to register, contact:

Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB, 773.764.2413 x374

## **World Labyrinth Day**

*20th Anniversary of St. Scholastica Monastery Labyrinth*

Led by Oblate Dan Raven and

Sister Mary Melady, OSB

Saturday May 4, 2019 9 a.m.- 8 p.m.

To learn more, contact:

Sister Mary Melady, OSB, 773.764.2413 x231

## **For more spirituality programs and retreats, visit:**

[www.osbchicago.org/programs](http://www.osbchicago.org/programs)

## **Looking for support on your journey?**

**Our Sisters also offer spiritual direction and counseling. For more information:**

[www.osbchicago.org/directionandcounseling](http://www.osbchicago.org/directionandcounseling)





# Prayer Ministry

*We remember you in our daily prayers.*

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests from  
June 1, 2018 through November 6, 2018

## Memorials

In memory of these deceased members of  
the class of 1968:

Debbie Dariotis Dustman  
Cindy Halpin Fairchild  
Nora Fanelli  
Mary Lou Nagler Hopkins  
Ann Gaffke Kavanaugh  
Colleen Carter Kelly  
Katherine Kokosinski  
Mary Ellen McGarry  
Evelyn Purtell Miller  
Barbara Hanley Minarcik  
Marianne Minwegen  
Patricia Hogan Moore  
Jean Nicholl  
Peggy O'Connor  
Joan Pasterczyk  
Tracey Power  
Switlana Romaniuk  
Mary Knapstein Rutherford  
Linda Landi Schar  
Barbara Baker Schwind  
Dona Steidele Small  
Mary Anne Gorman Smith  
Linda Conrad Tomas  
Janice Tomcik  
Mary Ellen Bell Weber  
Jane Messett White  
Class of 1968  
In memory of Hardin Abrams  
Judith Borchers  
Ellen and Bill Galush  
In memory of Paul, George and Herbert Alm  
Rena Alm  
In memory of Trudy Anderson  
Patricia Campion  
In memory of Magdalena Assinger  
Helga Ruby  
In memory of Ronald Baruffi  
Ron and Karen Celesnik  
In memory of William Francis Beane  
Kathy and Jeff Caudill  
In memory of Caroline Becker  
Helga Ruby  
In memory of Bob Begner  
Patricia Hartmann  
In memory of June Bland  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Robert Borchers  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Nancy Bryers  
Ellen Burgess  
Ellen and Bill Galush  
Joanne Spata  
In memory of Nancy Reinarts Branda  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Gabrielle Braun  
Margaret Drugan  
In memory of Carol Barrett Butler  
Richard Butler  
In memory of Father James Colleran  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Ignacio Córdoba  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Lisa Vedrode Cramer  
Holly Rumpel  
In memory of Mary Elizabeth Connolly  
Crean  
Frances Crean, RSM  
In memory of Mary "Ginny" Fitzpatrick  
Cronin-Wadden  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Annie Cullen  
Margaret Cullen  
In memory of George Cullen, Sr.  
Margaret Cullen  
In memory of Sister Estelle Cullings, OSB  
Susan Callahan  
In Memory of Kathleen M. Walsh Deger  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Julianne Benedict Derken  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Loretta Williams Downes  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Carolyn Weaver Duncan  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Marian Weaver Darling  
In memory of Ann Dunning  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Charlene Balkin  
In memory of Jack and Julie Evans  
Don and Leslie Dickerson  
In memory of deceased members of the  
Fitzgerald family  
William Fitzgerald  
In memory of Janet Ford  
Suzanne Ford

In memory of Eugene L. and  
Severina Renie V. Gallo  
Joanne Spata  
In memory of Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Lois Hayhurst Gaquin  
James Gaquin, Jr.  
In memory of Terrence Gleason  
Lois Sweeney Gleason  
In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB  
Suzanne Walsh  
In memory of Mary Ellen Mahoney Graf  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Thomas E. Green  
Therese M. Green  
In memory of Patricia Hanlon  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Jillian Elizabeth Hansen  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Emily Hartman  
Nancy Bryers  
In memory of Patricia Moran Hiasen  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Robert Hiasen  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Iris "Toni" Hillenbrand  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Ralph and Nancy Deptolla  
Anita and John Dunn  
Sandra Fasl  
Marion and Joe Goetz  
Steve and Pam Hillenbrand  
Douglas and Peggy Person  
Joyce Perso  
Albert E. Santoni  
Paul Santoni  
Kevin and Kim Smith  
Robert and Ann Stein  
In memory of Patricia and Charles Hinni  
Mary and John Yena  
In memory of Margaret "Peggy" Hogan  
Michael J. Hogan  
In memory of Thomas F. Hogarty  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
LuAnne Jautz Feik  
In memory of Ellen Quinn Holian-Mykrantz  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Joanne Molony Hopkinson  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Catherine Hopkinson

## Prayer Ministry-June 1, 2018 - November 6, 2018

In memory of Sheila Murphy Hulseman  
Greta Rusk  
In memory of Ed Jacobs  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Susan Jardien  
Mary Lou Baldwin  
In memory of deceased members of the  
Jerney family  
Patricia Jerney  
In memory of Dr. Ronald Johnson  
Charlotte Johnson  
In memory of Arlene Jorgensen  
Mark Jorgensen  
In memory of Anton Kaplan  
Margaret M. Cullen  
In memory of Frances Kaplan  
Margaret M. Cullen  
In memory of Ann Gaffke Kavanaugh  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Gary Klug  
Mary Klug  
In memory of Anna Knific  
Eileen and Rudy Gallegos  
Kathleen and Judy Kochevar  
Kurt and Anna Marie Perse  
Alice and Edward Skerjanec  
In memory of Laura Kraman  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Maria Kreiling  
Helga Ruby  
In memory of Manfred Krupka  
Juliana Krupka  
In memory of Ed Landry  
Angela Schroeder  
In memory of Jerome Lanzel  
Loretta Langton  
In memory of Jennifer Bland Lugiai  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Frederick and Donna Bland  
June and Stephen Bland  
Judith Borchers  
Nancy Bryers and Jean Slifer  
Barbara Cullen  
Margaret and Wayne Hanson  
Patricia A. Levine  
George and Helen McArdle  
Sheila McGuire  
Sherry Stansbury  
In memory of Sister Catherine Lynch, OSB  
Mary and John Yena  
In memory of Victoria Piscitello Mallow  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of John Brendan Maloney  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Leah McCabe  
Patricia Hartmann

In memory of Eugene McGuire  
Amy and Scott Gilbert  
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon  
McKenney  
Patricia Martin  
In memory of Charlotte McKenzie  
Patricia Cielinski, OSB  
Judith Zonsius, OSB  
In memory of Joan Helen Meersman  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Jean Minelli  
Michael and Debbie Cielinski  
Patricia Cielinski, OSB  
In memory of Anthony Peter Mitchell  
Patricia Cielinski, OSB  
In memory of Patricia Hogan Moore  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Robert Murray  
Barbara Hickman  
In memory of Ronald Murray  
Kathleen Janessa  
In memory of Liljana Nacevska  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Jackie LeSanche  
In memory of Helen Nadziejko  
Peg and Wayne Wagner  
In memory of Joan Napoli  
Ellen Ward  
In memory of Roxanne Stephan O'Brien  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Hilda Odeh  
Jackie LeSanche  
In memory of Timothy O'Donnell  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Mary and Charles Smoot  
In memory of Betty O'Grady  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Claire Eileen Owen  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Denise Perse  
Margaret Cullen  
In memory of Helen Perse  
Margaret M. Cullen  
In memory of Richard (Dick) Perse  
Margaret M. Cullen  
In memory of Taylor Perse  
Margaret Cullen  
In memory of Florence Piotrowicz  
Donna Dehnert  
In memory of Elizabeth Pirman  
Mary Pirman  
In memory of George Radacy  
Susan Ernst  
In memory of Kathleen Reed  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Kathleen M. Dorgan Rhea  
Jerry Rhea  
In memory of deceased members of the  
Rhodes family  
Joseph Rhodes  
In memory of Marie Elaine Carr Rigby  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Sharon Rodie  
Susan Ernst  
In memory of Camille Sabia  
Florence Sabia  
In memory of Bonnie Saccucci-Perez  
Seth Alexander  
In memory of Gloria Marie Sanchez  
Siobhan O'Neill Meluso  
In memory of Elliott Satinover  
Patricia Hartmann  
In memory of Marianne Schwarz  
Renae Alm  
In memory of Nancy Langelund Sedin  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Julie and Bob Sawyer  
In memory of George Seidenbecker  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of William Shane  
Patricia Hartmann  
In memory of Lawrence "Gene" Sharum  
Frank H. Koers  
In memory of Robert F. Skoronski  
Uncle Pete Ministry  
Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB  
In memory of Faith McMahon Smith  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Marian Weaver Darling  
In memory of Kevin Soder  
Peg and Wayne Wagner  
In memory of John Spellman  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Rosalie Stefan  
Bob and Mary Bzik  
In memory of Peg Eiden Stein  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Barbara Gauer

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

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## Prayer Ministry-June 1, 2018 - November 6, 2018

In memory of Mary Ellen Stuermer  
Diane Adler  
Benedictine Sisters and Oblates of Chicago  
Ann Cannon Miller  
In memory of deceased members of the  
Sullivan family  
John Wren  
In memory of Darren Venn  
Edward and Ann Phillips  
In memory of Chet Vogrig  
Eileen Moorman  
In memory of Peter Vrdolyak  
Wayne and Peg Wagner  
In memory of Thomas Weber  
Jean Weber  
In memory of Maureen Shockey Wells  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
In memory of Gerhard Welsch  
Helga Ruby  
In memory of Flo Wolfe  
Charlene Balkin  
In memory of deceased members of the  
Wren family  
John Wren  
In memory of David Zola  
Noreen Ferrari and Barbara Logue  
In memory of  
Sister Suzanne Zuercher, OSB  
Valerie Stockmar  
In memory of Scott Allen Zwolinski  
Kardasz family

### *Special Occasions*

In honor of Danette (Danny) Bergin on her  
86th birthday  
Betty and Bud Chess  
In honor of Sister Karen Bland and other  
OSB members who served at  
St. George School, Chicago, Illinois  
Joseph Rhodes  
In honor of Sister Joan Gannon, OSB  
Ellen Ward  
In honor of Mary Ellen Molony Brady on  
her 90th birthday  
Catherine Hopkinson  
In honor of Thomas and Jaimie Caudill's  
wedding  
Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill  
In honor of the SSA Chicago, Class of 1973  
Catherine Sullivan  
Jamie Ryan Thometz

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on  
her birthday  
Thomas Auer  
Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon  
In honor of Katherine Gehrke on her  
special birthday  
Sheila Kelly  
In honor of Agnes Glavich on her 89th  
birthday  
Josephine Krasovic  
In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on  
her 105th birthday  
Mary and Bob Bzik  
John and Joan Delisi  
Patricia Finnegan  
Eileen and Larry Klonowski  
Ann and Robert Kneesel  
James and Regina Murray  
Dan Raven and Wencke Braathon  
Patricia Prusa  
Beth and Keith Self  
In honor of Jackie LeSanche  
Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill  
In honor of Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB  
Mary Louise Reuscher  
In honor of Richard and Cynthia  
McCallister  
Rob and Dina Bacht  
In honor of Florence Sabia on her 85th  
birthday  
Teresa and Richard Brown  
In honor of siblings' birthdays (Mary Jo,  
Ken, Patti, Francine, George, Sam, Judy,  
Steph, Lee, Mike, Cathy, and Steve)  
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.





## Note from the Director of Development

Dear Friends,

As the new year begins, we look forward to a most blessed year, with you by our side. Your friendship and support continue to enable our Sisters to further their mission. Your partnership not only honor the past by caring for our retired Sisters, but also enables our religious community to continue in their ministry today.

We are especially thankful for your support of our recent appeal to protect the St. Scholastica Chapel from the ravages of time and weather. It is through your most generous response that we have been able to repair our roof, seal the envelope of the building and restore our damaged frescos. We deeply appreciate your continued support in helping us to provide a comfortable worship space for all. Please know we are truly grateful that together with you, we serve the people of God, in the spirit of the Gospel.

Wishing you a blessed 2019!

Gratefully yours,

*Joanne Spata*

Joanne Spata, Director of Development



## Save the Date!

# 25th Annual Testimonial Dinner and Awards

Wednesday, June 12, 2019  
Park Ridge Country Club





# Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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## *Annual Stewardship Report* *Fiscal Year 2017-2018*

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# Message from the Prioress



Dear Friends,

We continue to be so very grateful for the gracious support of our many friends and donors in so many ways. Thanks to your very generous response to our appeal last year the needed repairs to the roof over the chapel have been completed and the art restored.

In September we welcomed alumnae from SSA Chicago graduating classes (years ending in 3 and 8) for their Class Reunions. The Reunions are an occasion of great enjoyment and reconnection among our Alumnae and between our former students, the Sisters and their teachers. Together we have much about which to be pleased and proud as we hear what they have done and are doing.

We are beneficiaries of the kindness of many individuals and a number of foundations. To name a few, The Bernard Heerey Family Foundation generously supports our Sisters with specific health issues; while Serve Our Aging Religious (SOAR) thoughtfully provides special equipment and furnishings for our retired sisters in St. Joseph Court. The National Religious Retirement Office, which oversees and distributes the annual collection for retired

religious Sisters and Brothers, also helps to support our aging Sisters. Meanwhile, the Helen Brach Foundation benefits our community through underwriting the cost of continuing education for some of our Sisters, to provide for our future.

We are also grateful for our monastery's growing groups of Oblates in Chicago and in Colorado. These women and men study the teachings of St. Benedict and strive to live out the values of *Ora et Labora*, not as vowed members, but rather throughout their daily lives. Their commitment called "Oblation" is a solemn promise. Our Oblates are a great support to us in many ways.

We are pleased to share with you our Annual Report. Know that we hold all our friends and benefactors in our daily prayers.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Murphy, OSB". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "OSB" clearly visible at the end.

Judith Murphy, OSB

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## List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order. Please see page 31 for a listing of those who donated to Uncle Pete's Ministries. A "+" cross indicates that the donor passed away this year. Every effort has been made to accurately acknowledge our donors' gifts for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!

### Foundation Grants

Bernard Heerey Family Foundation  
Carol Lavin Bernick Family Foundation  
Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, Inc.  
Helen Brach Foundation  
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National Religious Retirement Office  
Polk Bros. Foundation  
SOAR! Sister Kathleen Lunsman, IHM

### Businesses

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A Professional Corporation  
AIM Works, Inc.  
AMITA Health  
Arado Realty CC, L.P.  
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Chicago White Sox  
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Maggiano's Little Italy  
Metropolis Coffee Co.  
National Center for Teachers Residencies  
National Decorating Service, Inc.  
Neurosurgery Group-St. Luke's Hospital



## *Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018*

Northlight Theatre  
National Religious Retirement Office  
Nuns 4 Fun  
Roberts Plumbing, Inc.  
Roeder Law Offices LLC  
Royal Gorge Bridge & Park  
Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home  
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Uncommon Ground  
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Betty Finucane  
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Emily Hartman

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St. Nicholas Parish  
Solidarity Bridge  
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### **Individual Donors**

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Mareon Arnold  
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Melina Reynoso Audinelle  
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Kimberly Boyce-Hagerty

## *Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018*

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Wilfredo and Millie Dacuycuy  
John Dainauskas  
Dennis and Daryl D'Amato  
Mary Jane and Joseph D'Amore





*Thank you for partnering  
with us in ministry*

Ralph Dangelmaier  
Kathleen Kilday Daniels  
Mary Rohrer Danner  
Maxwell Davis and Beth Boosalis Davis  
Harry De Smet  
Mary Kay Deany  
Dolores Deasy  
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Patricia Finnegan  
Kathleen FioRito

# 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!

## 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 DAR

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

## IRA Charitable Rollover

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

## Appreciated Stock

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

## Memorial Gifts

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

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 or [jspata@osbchicago.org](mailto:jspata@osbchicago.org).*

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## *Your Gifts Support our Elder Sisters*

Sister Agnes Kelly, OSB enjoys gardening with her great-niece Magda Sacco as well as art class and, of course, singing as her former students may remember from Glee Club.

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

---



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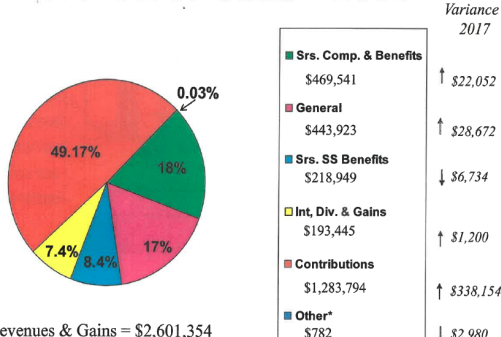
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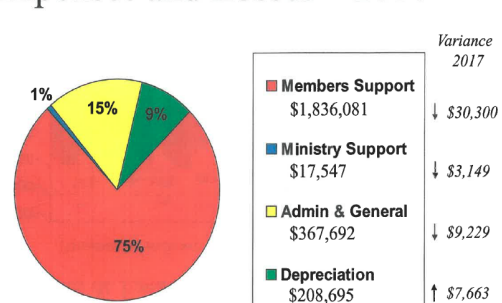
Total Revenues & Gains = \$2,601,354

(Graph does not include loss on the sale of equipment of \$9,080.)

\*Other includes: Property damage ins. reimburse.

Revenues and Gains

### Expenses and Losses – 2018



Total Expenses = \$2,430,015

Expenses and Losses



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*"Columbia Welcomes the World: Benedictine Sisters and Students at the World's Fair," a Chicago Open Archives event presented by Sister Virginia Jung, OSB. Pictured left to right, Sebastian P. Wuepper, a Ph.D. Candidate in History from Loyola University Chicago, (panelist at the event), Sister Patti Cielinski, OSB, and Sister Sue Kilduski, OSB admiring the display at the October event.*

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