



Sacro Speco

Sacred Space

THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE + WINTER/SPRING 2026



Faith in Action



Winter/Spring Issue 2026, volume XXXVI, number 2



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Sacro Speco is a biannual publication of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago for oblates, alumnae, and friends of the community.

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If you need to update your contact information, are receiving multiple copies of the newsletter, or know someone who would like to receive future mailings, please contact Jackie LeSanche at jlesanche@osbchicago.org or 773.764.2413 x241.



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All photos in this magazine are property of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

Cover photos:

Top: Sisters and oblates gathered for a Peace Vigil in front of the monastery.

Bottom left: Sr. Patti Cielinski's pick for April's American Library Week Quiet Read-a-long

Bottom right: Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar and Sr. Pat Coughlin polka dancing at Sr. Mary Susan's birthday party

Letter from the Prioress



*Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB
Prioress*

Dear Friends,

As always, I hope you will enjoy reading about the various activities and events that have occurred since receiving the last issue of *Sacro Speco*. I would like to call your attention to one event in particular. It is the Peace Vigil held here in front of the monastery on March 12th, referenced on page 5. Our newly formed Social Justice Committee organized this event for the purpose of collectively praying for peace and giving witness to our Benedictine call as peacemakers.

St. Benedict lived at a time in history much like our own in many ways. The Roman Empire had collapsed and the land was being invaded by barbarians. The vast disregard for human life gave rise to social unrest, turmoil, violence, war, and poverty. Benedict responded to this calamitous crisis first by fleeing from it, and then by courageously entering into it as he began to establish his monasteries. One writer has referred to these early monasteries as “bomb shelters” where vulnerable people were protected in a world falling apart.

Benedict offered a way of life unlike that of the known world. He and his monks reverently welcomed and cared for the stranger honoring the equal dignity of all who came to the monastery seeking solace, healing and peace.

A prominent characteristic of Benedictine life is peace. On both sides of the wall at the entrance of our chapel, you will see the word Pax. It is the earliest motto of Benedictine monasticism. People who have visited monasteries often say they feel a sense of peace inside the monastery. In his Holy Rule, St. Benedict calls his monks to seek peace and to pursue it not only within the monastery but outside the walls of the monastery. The call to actively seek and work for peace is to take on the ministry of peacemaking. It is the ministry of healing versus harming even when others may present themselves to us as our enemies.

On April 11, we participated virtually in the Peace Vigil at the Vatican led by Pope Leo XIV. It was a beautifully reflective praying of the Rosary together with millions of people worldwide. Those participating in person in Rome represented many different cultures and languages all expressing a common faith and hope. Pope Leo concluded the vigil with these words, “We want to say to the whole world that it is possible to build peace, a new peace... that we want to be disciples of Jesus Christ united as brothers and sisters, all united in a world of peace.”

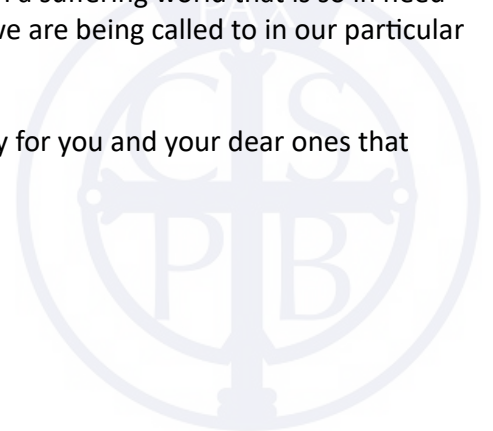
In these weeks following Easter, we have been listening to the accounts of Jesus’ appearances to the frightened apostles as given in our Sunday scripture readings. Jesus greets the apostles with the words, “Peace be with you” and “Do not be afraid.” The Risen Christ speaks these same words to us. Let us pray for the courage to faithfully share not only the words of peace, but the action of peacemaking with and for all God’s people. In so doing, we give witness of God’s enduring love, goodness and compassionate presence in a suffering world that is so in need of God’s mercy and healing grace. This seems to be the work of discipleship we are being called to in our particular time and place.

Again, we thank you for your treasured love, friendship and support. We pray for you and your dear ones that peace, God’s peace, may reign in your hearts and homes today and always.

In St. Benedict and St. Scholastica,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB



Monastery News

The Benedictine Monastic Congregation Council met in Atchison, Kansas in October. Srs. Susan Quaintance and Judith Zonsius were in attendance as our council representatives.



When "our" episode of *Chicago Fire* aired in November, we had a watch party in St. Joseph's Court with popcorn.

Sr. Kathleen wore her Chicago Fire Department jacket for the occasion. Despite the scary plot, we enjoyed seeing the school building on screen!



Along with Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, we participated in a vigil at the corner of Lunt and Clark to continue our commitment to and support of our immigrant neighbors. Many people thanked the group, waved to us, and honked their horns in support.



The Sunday before the Thanksgiving holiday, we hosted our annual Mass and luncheon in gratitude for our donors' generosity. "We count each of you as a cherished blessing to us. Your loving support and presence in our lives means so much to us. We hold each of you and your loved ones in our hearts and prayers daily." - Prioress Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar



Santa visited our sisters at St. Joseph's Court ahead of Christmas. What a joy to decorate the space and enjoy the spirit of the season.



In subzero temperatures, Sr. Belinda Monahan, Oblate Barbara Boland, and Sr. Susan Quaintance participated in Interfaith Action of Evanston's seventh Martin Luther King Jr. Day Walk for Warmth.



Monastery News

As described in Prioress Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar's letter, sisters, oblates, and neighbors held a Peace Vigil in front of the monastery in March, praying for peace in our city, country, and world.



Sr. Sue Kilduski presented "The Universe - A Cosmic Symphony" as part of a series called Know and Love: A Series on Interfaith and Intra-faith Talks, hosted by the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago at Home of Harmony, which provides a space for people from different faiths to come together and share and learn about each other's beliefs and experiences.



Banned Books were read in rooms across the monastery's first floor for our second Quiet Read-A-Long in April. It was so wonderful to have friends and alumnae visit for our first one in November, that we did it again, this time on Right to Read day, during the American Library Association's National Library Week.



Through a new partnership with Sharing Notes, our sisters in St. Joseph's Court are enjoying monthly mini-concerts from professional musicians. So far we've had an oboist, classical guitarist, Irish music, and pictured below, multi-instrumentalist Steve Martin.



Sanctuary Movement

by Sr. Belinda Monahan, OSB

This January, I took part in Catholic Sisters Walking with Migrants, a weeklong immersion trip to the Arizona/Mexico border, sponsored by Kino Border Initiative. Early in the week, we visited Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, Arizona to learn about the origins of the sanctuary movement. Much of what I encountered there stayed with me, in no small part because of its resonance with the Benedictine values of hospitality and community. Since then, I have been reflecting on all of the ways our community of sisters and oblates has, and continues to participate in the practice of sanctuary.

I had heard of the sanctuary movement before, and even encountered people directly impacted by it. On one of my previous trips to the border in December of 2024, I met Dora Rodriguez and accompanied her to Organ Pipe Cactus Monument. Dora was with a group fleeing state-sponsored violence in their native El Salvador. We visited the spot where she, along with thirteen of her companions were rescued after crossing into the United States, while a similar number of their group died. After her ordeal, Dora was arrested and taken to Pima County jail. The growing sanctuary movement in Tucson was able to raise sufficient funds and sponsors that she was released from jail. She was eventually granted asylum in the United States, where she currently lives.



Catholic Sisters Walking with Migrants (CSWM) group inside Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, AZ. Photo from CSWM.

When I first heard Dora's story, I took the idea of "sanctuary" for granted, but Dora was one of the lucky ones. Churches such as Southside Presbyterian shaped the late twentieth century sanctuary movement in response to people like Dora: Men and women who risked their lives fleeing state-sanctioned violence in their own country. Migrants fleeing nations such as El Salvador and Nicaragua were regularly denied asylum in the United States because the U.S. was providing financial and logistical aid to those very governments which were threatening their citizens. Leaders and congregations, including Rev. John Fife, pastor of Southside Presbyterian Church, developed networks, raised resources, and provided logistical support, in order to assist Dora and others in staying in the United States. They saw themselves as carrying out a moral imperative that impelled them to subvert what they saw as unjust laws.



Dora (in the center) at the site of her rescue, with group of Northwestern students. Photo from Sheil Catholic Center.

Sanctuary Movement

As I listened to the stories about the actions of the founders of the sanctuary movement, it was this idea of “sanctuary” that caught my attention and stayed with me. One resource suggested that sanctuary can be viewed as:

- A response to raids, detentions, deportations, and the criminalization of immigration,
- A strategy to fight individual cases of deportation, to advocate for an end to mass detention and deportation, and to amplify the voices of immigrants,
- A vision for what our communities and world can be, and
- A moral imperative to take prophetic action of radical hospitality, rooted in the ancient tradition of our communities.

(from Oregon IMIrJ sanctuary coalition)

From this perspective, sanctuary strongly corresponds with Benedictine values, especially to the value of hospitality. In fact, our community has provided sanctuary—political and otherwise—to many people throughout the years. As was true of many Benedictine communities, we were founded in order to educate the children of migrants—to serve where there is need—a practice that continued through the closing of our high schools in both Chicago and Cañon City, CO. Later in our history we provided housing to families in need as early as the nineteen fifties. In more recent years, we welcomed a young woman who had been released from juvenile immigration detention, accompanying her and supporting her journey through high school, college, and beyond.

Many of our community—sisters and oblates and alumnae—continue to work toward sanctuary for immigrants: Praying and protesting at Broadview, participating in rapid response networks, and providing community defense at local parishes. Moreover, the peace and prayer of the monastery, where we strive to welcome all as Christ, continues to provide a sanctuary for many who need respite from the struggle and stress of daily life

None of this would be possible without the vision for what our community and world can be, a vision that

is grown and tended within community and by the sisters and oblates. Benedict’s vision of “the whole world, gathered as it were together under one beam of the sun,” provides the tradition upon which our understanding of community is founded: The value of hospitality that grows out of Benedict’s vision, as well as his injunction to welcome all guests as Christ impels our community to provide sanctuary for all those we encounter. As the most vulnerable, immigrants are among those who are in special need of this sanctuary.



A cross in the courtyard of Southside Presbyterian Church commemorating those who died in crossing the border. Photo from CSWM.

◆ ◆ ◆

Sr. Belinda's live presentation about her trip can be viewed on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/osbchiveidos

From the Archives

by Susan B. Clark

Archives volunteer Theresa Donnelly Kevorkian '82 was scanning the 1925 program from the dedication of the St. Scholastica Chapel and school building, and realized it had been one hundred years! As she flipped through the pages, she thought, "Tens of thousands of people, probably more, were impacted by the sisters and educators here. I want to help the sisters celebrate this." (You can see the booklet on our website - osbchicago.org/post/100-years-of-st-scholastica-chapel-and-school-building).

A plan began forming, as Theresa printed copies of the dedication booklet and created signage to identify locations in the school building, such as a dormitory and infirmary that had been converted into classrooms by the time she was a student.



On a dreary day in January, her beautiful plan came together as a Centennial Blessing of St. Scholastica. About twenty sisters, archive staff, and oblates proceeded on a journey through the school - to give thanks and share gratitude of its past, and to give blessings of hope for the future.



Starting outside the ground floor office, each person contributed school-related objects to the candle lit ofrenda (photo top left) while listening to the songs that had been played 100 years ago at the dedication Mass. Outside the gym, Mickey Smith '62 said a prayer for athletes and coaches (photo bottom left) and Sr. Judith Zonsius '70 shared about Buzz the Bee, the last mascot of the St. Scholastica Stingers.



On the first floor, we admired Josef Steinhage's 1937 St. Scholastica mural (photo above), Sr. Judith Murphy '60 shared stories of her time as a teacher and principal, and Lorrie Wiltgen '70 said a prayer in one of the classrooms in which an ofrenda was lit.

In the science labs on the second floor, Srs. Callista Kaley '48, Benita Coffey '49, and Rita Nowak '51 shared how innovative and progressive the sisters were to be teaching science to girls. Another ofrenda was assembled in Sr. Susan Quaintance's homeroom 206, where she shared stories and memories and a prayer.

After a quick visit to the former third floor dorms and infirmary, the trip was completed in Room 100, which during Sr. Callista's time as a student had been music practice rooms across from the Chapel. The culminating treat was listening to a recording of Sr. Callista's Masters' piano recital from Depaul University.

It was a special experience and partly inspired the idea to bring this year's reunion back into the school building and to invite all alumnae for reunion weekend.

Oblate James Holzhauser-Chuckas was a guest on the Archdiocese of Chicago's "Dare to Love" podcast, exploring the topic: *What are Associates or Oblates?* Interviewed by co-hosts Sr. Lovina Francis Pammit, OSF and Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD, James talked about his oblate experience, as well as working in youth ministry in parishes across Chicagoland. He was joined by three others who share a similar vocation relationship with other religious communities.



Congratulations to oblate Fr. Mike Solazzo (at left, standing) on celebrating 50 years of priesthood. Sisters and oblates were honored to commemorate the occasion, with many others touched by Fr. Mike's vocation and friendship.



We held a "Walk as One for Peace" during this year's World Labyrinth Day in early May. Thanks to oblate Dan Raven for supporting another successful day; we love hosting visitors each spring for this outdoor event. Gratitude to Robert Englebright Photography for the aerial image of the labyrinth candle lit at dusk.



◆ ◆ ◆

We are saddened to share the passing of the following oblates over the past year. Please join us in praying for our dearly departed and their families and friends:

• Fr. Michael Garcia	Oblation December 15, 1996	Death January 29, 2025
• Josepha Walsh	Oblation July 23, 1987	Death September 15, 2025
• Jean Ehlert	Oblation August 30, 2009	Death December 2025
• Margaret (Peggy) Skube	Oblation May 13, 2015	Death January 12, 2026
• Kathy Riordan	Oblation February 24, 1991	Death February 4, 2026
• Katherine (Kay) McSpadden	Oblation May 15, 2011	Death February 24, 2026

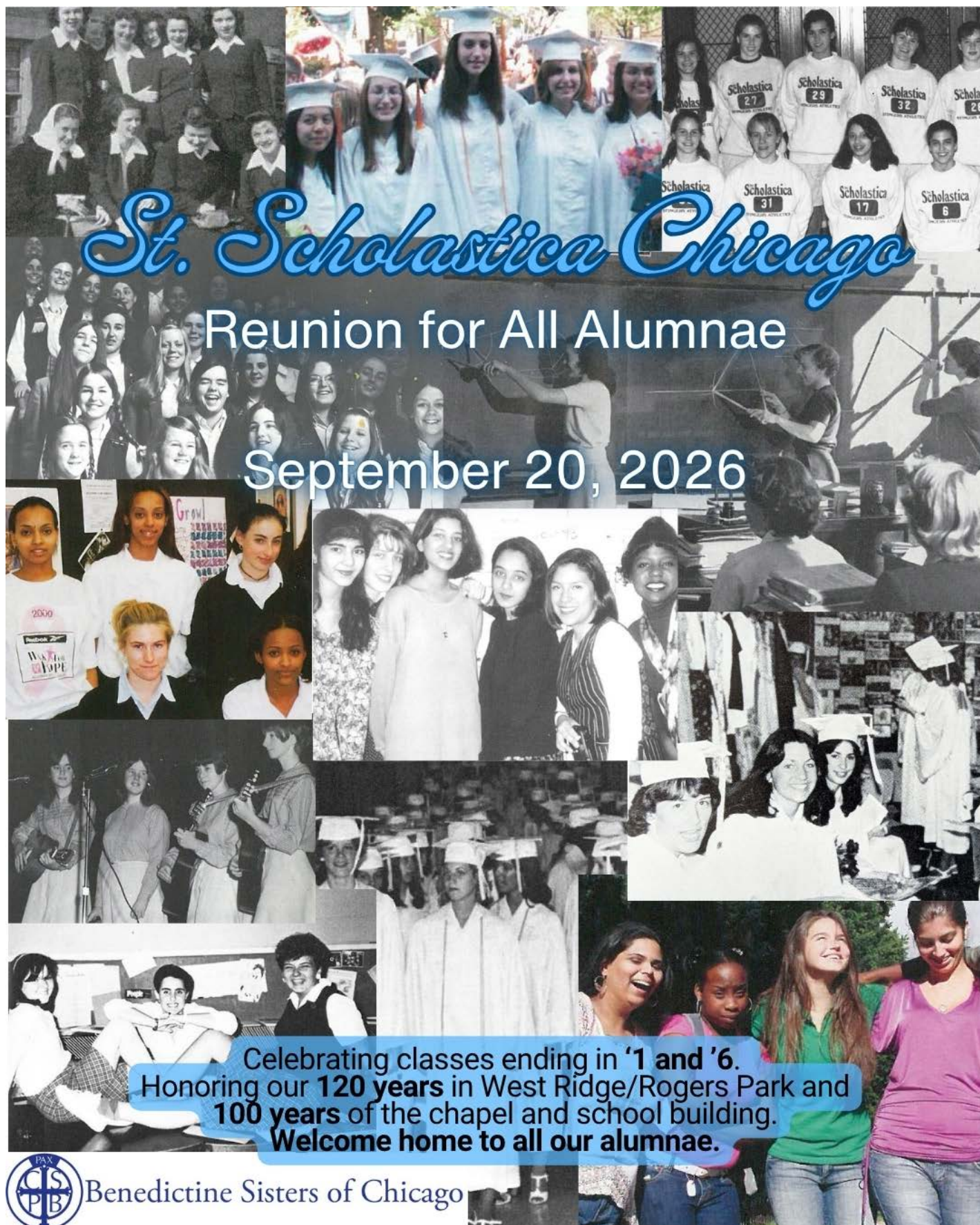
To learn more about our oblates visit:
www.osbchicago.org/oblates

To explore the call to this way of life, contact
Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, Subprioress
subprioress@osbchicago.org
773-764-2413 x231

To attend future programs, visit:
www.osbchicago.org/programs

Looking for support on your journey? Our sisters offer spiritual direction and counseling. For more information visit: www.osbchicago.org/directionandcounseling

Alumnae News



St. Scholastica Chicago

Reunion for All Alumnae

September 20, 2026

Celebrating classes ending in '1 and '6.
Honoring our **120 years** in West Ridge/Rogers Park and
100 years of the chapel and school building.
Welcome home to all our alumnae.

 Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Reunion Homecoming

Reunion Weekend 2026 is a Homecoming celebration.

2026 marks the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago's
120th year serving the West Ridge / Rogers Park neighborhoods, and the
100th year of the chapel and school building.

In honor of those milestones we would like to
welcome everyone back to St. Scholastica for a "homecoming."

Celebrating **classes ending in '1 and '6**.
And welcoming **All Alumnae** back "home" to St. Scholastica.

♦ ♦ ♦

Sunday, September 20, 2026

10:30am-11:30am

Mass in St. Scholastica Chapel for Reunion Classes
Benedictine medal ceremony for **50th anniversary class of 1976**
Class photos

12:00-4:00pm

Lunch, drinks, and School Open House for **all classes and alumnae**

♦ ♦ ♦

Invitations and registration coming in June.

♦ ♦ ♦

We would love to have your talent and skills in planning, inviting classmates, and setting up.
Please contact Communications Coordinator Susan Clark '98 to sign up for Host Committee.
sclark@osbchicago.org 773-764-2413 x232

Alumnae In Memoriam

The following notices were received October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

“Joy” Joan Maurer Sullivan (1947), mother of Kathy Sullivan John (1970) & Susan Sullivan Maas (1973)
Patricia Anne Kelly Sacco (1949), sister of Sister Agnes Kelly, OSB

Jeanne Crowley (1950)

Mary Patricia Gibbons Davis (1953)

Mary Lambrecht Wehling (1953)

Margaret Anne Doran Bregenzer (1954)

Thomas C. Blickhahn, husband of Barbara Anderschat Blickhahn (1959)

John P. Phelan (*8/29/25), husband of Judith Henderson Phelan (1959)

Kathryn Mary Cogan, daughter of Maureen Smith Cogan (1960)

Carol Ann Sebastian MacKenzie (1960), sister of Lynne Mikulina (1958)

Kathleen Leuschner Riordan (1961)

Mary Ellen Ryan, sister of Kathleen Ryan McCarthy (1962), Rebecca Ryan Wood (1967), & Jamie Ryan Thometz (1973)

Elizabeth (Betty) Schreiber Newboe (1962) (*3/17/25)

Douglas William Sievers, husband of Sheila Hennessy Sievers (1964)

Mary Baer Wilbois (1964)

Alex Mayfield, son of Marynell Heffernan Mayfield (1965)

Donna Marie Clesen (1966)

Glen Hines, husband of Carol Schmidt (1967)

Suzanne Burns Marn (1971), sister of Judith Burns Alexander (1963)

Edward Patrick McHugh, brother of Jane McHugh (1968), Shannon MayHall (1977), Joan Schwarzbeck (1979) Carol Schwiidel (1985) & Jean Kriz, M.D. (1982)

Thomas Verdun, partner of Fe Fernandez (1971)

Carmen Van Balen Lancho (1972)

Ryanne Wood, daughter of Colleen Harmon Wood (1972)

Irma “Amy” G. Patras, mother of Mary Jewers (1979), Patricia Patras (1980), JoAnn Moreno (1983) & Irene Bizios (1989)

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

Kathleen Leuschner Riordan, Class of 1961

Alumna, oblate, and former teacher Kathy Riordan passed away in February. Kathy graduated from St. Scholastica in 1961. A dedicated educator, she taught English here in the late 60's/early 70's. She was also an educator and administrator at Mundelein College, Sacred Heart, Loyola Academy, Lowell Elementary, Curie High School, and Josephinum High School. She was committed to supporting young people from all backgrounds to access opportunities and forge their identities.

Kathy loved being outdoors, and was an avid walker, cyclist, ice-skater, cross-country skier, and swimmer. A creative spirit, she designed stained glass windows and jewelry, knitted, played guitar, and painted. Her talents extended to writing, and - a lifelong resident of the Saugansh neighborhood - wrote a column and contributed articles to the local newspapers.

Kathy was inspired by the culture Chicago has to offer, and frequently took the L to the Art Institute, Lincoln Park Zoo, The Goodman Theater, and more. She also loved to travel, and visited her children in places such as Kazakhstan and Moldova, where her kids served as Peace Corps volunteers, Fulbright Scholars, and diplomats. She and her husband Bill hosted international Fulbright Scholars for dinners at their home as a way to extend care to others like her own family had been cared for while serving in other countries.

Kathy was part of our oblate community for many years, and we will miss her smile and tales of all her outdoor and travel adventures. There will be a mass and celebration of life for Kathy in June - information at www.smithcorcoran.com.



Kathy was president of the Class of 1961

Memorials

In memory of...

Sister Mary Jude Ahern, OSB
Rabbi Robert and Dawn Rosen
Marjorie Ellen Coffey Auer
John Schutz
Patricia Sebahar
Stephen Bachmann
Cynthia Bachmann
Genevieve and Louis Balkin
Charlene Balkin
Glenn Baughman
Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB
Sam Benjamin
Renae Alm
Anonymous
Emma Benjamin
Jeffrey Thomas
John Blazejak
Joan Wrenn
Thomas Blickhahn
Barbara Blickhahn
Daniel J. Broderick Jr.
Eileen Moorman
Bill Burrows
Judith Borchers
Mary McVane Calhoun
Joan Marubio
Rose Cerone
Wayne and Peg Wagner
Mary Chamernik
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Marcia Citera
Peter Citera
Donna Larsen Clesen
Elizabeth Larsen
Sherry Coffey
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Regina (Jeanne) Crowley
Anonymous
Marilyn Ballard
Andrea Ciccone
Mickey Smith
Annie Cullen
Margaret Cullen
George Cullen, Sr.
Margaret Cullen
Phyllis Stroka Cypcar
Phillip Cypcar
Mary Pat Davis
John Davis
Marie Durkin
Judith Borchers
Jack and Julie Evans
Leslie and Don Dickerson
Cynthia J. Fairchild
John R. Fairchild
Patricia Carroll Ford
Cathleen Wallyn
Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB
Suzanne Walsh
James R. Goepel
Barbara R. Goepel
Jimmy Gracey
Bill and Ellen Wirth
Elizabeth and Edward Zonsius
Judith Zonsius, O.S.B.
Marilyn Hart
Mary Morrissey
Sister Jeanne Hegarty
Kristi Nichole Arellano
Glen Hines
Peggy Anselmo
Peg and Wayne Wagner
William Hipkind
Marietta Binsfeld Hipkind
Deacon Roger Hunter
Patricia Hartmann

Vern Hultgren
Don C. Winslow
Ivantic Family
Amy Avakian
Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB, Agnes M. Ivantic, Parents William and Ruth Ivantic, and the entire Ivantic Family
North Shore Trust and Savings
William and Ruth Ivantic
Amy Avakian
Agnes M. Ivantic
Amy Avakian
Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB
Amy Avakian
Lisa Halpin and Frank Demma
Carol and Edward Finnegan
Anna Marie Schwartz
Tyler Jaggers
Judith Borchers
Mary Ann Lynch Jewell
Jean Dolan
Mary Ann Lynch Jewell and husband, Thomas Jewell
Anne Jewell
Abriana Johnson
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Amy Judge
Judith Borchers
Angela Judge
Mary Ellen Kadleck
Joseph Kadleck
Carol Stewart Kand
Geraldine Kilsdonk
James Kaye
Molly Kaye Walsh
Mary Kaye
Molly Kaye Walsh
Walter and Gina Kazlowski
Cynthia Bachmann

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



Prayer Ministry - October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

Leonard Kobliska
Julia M. Monaham Koblisks
Mary Frances Kelley
Diane Slaten
Judith Knorst
Suzanne Miller
Yoko Kono
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Judith Borchers
Robert "Bob" Koziol
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Andrea Ciccone
Sister Anne Krall, OSB
Anna Marie Perse
Sister Juliana "Gertrude" Kunz and
Sister Justina Kunz
Michael Surdyk
Nancy Lally
Teresa Brown
Donna Larsen Clesen
Elisabeth Larsen
Helen G. Lynn
Bridget and Nick Donofrio
Mary and John Madden
Margaret Casey
Linda Mancini
Dominic and Maret Caminiti
Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB
Barbara Brindis
Timothy and Deborah Crowe
Steven Vatch, Jr.
Suzanne Burns Marn
Judith Alexander
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Andrea Ciccone
Karen and Bryan LeBlanc
Leo Marubio
Joan Marubio
Jean Wirkus
Dennis Masek
Jim and Elaine Merkel
Katherine McSpadden
Hope D. Gilleppe
Maureen Gallagher and David C.
Kalensky
Robert J. Smith Funeral Homes, Inc.
Sister Mary Melady, OSB
Ellen Burgess
Rabbi Robert and Dawn Rosen
Patricia Gavin Mellenthin
Lynn Gavin Hopman

Chuck Minniefield
Margaret and Dominic Caminiti
Rose Monahan
Judith Zonsius, OSB
Danny O'Donnell
Kevin and Joan Cavanaugh
Edward F. Palffy
Helga Ruby
Amy G. Patras
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Donna Lyon
John Pembroke
Carrie and Richard Frey
Elizabeth and Allan Grabowski
Mary Jo and Greg Stegeman
David K. Perez
Snyder and Zonsius Families
Jim Perkins
Dominic and Margaret Caminiti
Denise Perse
Margaret Cullen
Taylor Perse
Margaret Cullen
John P. Phelan
Judith Henderson Phelan
Judith Printz
Leanne Alvizu, Tracy Bertke, and Ruth
Hornacek
Laura Anderson Radabaugh
Peggy Willis
George and Marian Radacy
Susan Ernst
Deacon Tom Rapach
Patricia Hartmann
Roger A. Redig
Don Winslow
Susan Gudgeon Reilly
Marilyn Miller
Fred Richter
Andrea Ciccone

Kathy Riordan
Marilyn Antonik
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Andrea Ciccone
Sylvia Hourihane
John Kajmowicz
Ann Cannon Miller
Robert and Barbara Perkaus
Mickey Smith
Serena Sparacino
Sonja Zanchelli
Sharon Rodie
Susan Ernst
Rosemarie Ruper, OSB
Anna Marie Perse
Sister Mildred Scheetz, OSB
Annette Scheetz
Tom Siciliano
Dominic and Margaret Caminiti
Doug Sievers
Judith Borchers
Dr. Thomas and Helen A. Slattery
Helen M. Slattery
Gary Spengel
Wayne and Peg Wagner
"Joy" Joan Maurer Sullivan
Susan and Thomas Maas
JoAnn O'Reilly Swartz
Julie O'Reilly Castillo and Jose Castillo
Terese Mulkern Terry
John Terry
Anna Vigil
Marcia Mally
Dale Winslow
Don Winslow
Kittie Winslow
Don Winslow
Sister Marilyn Wolfram, OSB
Elise and Keith McDonald
Sister Anna Wrenn, OSB
Joan Wrenn
Michael Wren
Dr. Peggyann Zaenger
Eddie and Beth Zonsius
William Ziegenhorn
Kathleen and Frank Fiorito
Barbara Zonsius
Mary Lou and John Waechter
Sister Suzanne Zuercher, OSB
David and Claudia Zuercher

*"...I remember you
constantly
in my prayers."
2 Timothy 1:3*

Special Occasions

In appreciation for the wonderful education and faith formation given to

me and for the ongoing care of the Sisters

Patricia Minwegen Aijian, Class of 1971 and Mark Aijian

In honor of Diane Kazmarak Beninati on her birthday

Nancy Butler Slagg

With love and gratitude to all the Benedictine Sisters

Kathy Littau Bell

In honor of Mary B. Cipolla

Anonymous

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB

Jean Hellman Ryan

Patricia Sebahar

Elizabeth Uligian

In honor of SSA Class of 1955

Joan Marubio

In honor of SSA Class of 1960

Ellen Castille

In honor of Robert F. Fucik

Marianela Gonzale

In honor of Anna Gerbanas on her 90th birthday

Patricia Mikrut Antczak

In honor of Sister Callista Kaley, OSB on her birthday

Patricia Heineman-Vernon

Mary L. Scardina

Mickey Smith

In thanksgiving for Sister Callista's superior piano teaching

Patricia Anne Heineman-Vernon

In honor of Sister Callista Kaley, OSB

Thomas Jewell

Patricia Pruitt

Helen Slattery

In gratitude for Sister Kathleen Maloney, OSB

Margaret Schramm

In honor of Carolyn Murphy

Anonymous

In honor of Sister Judith Murphy on a special occasion

Rabbi Robert and Dawn Rosen

In honor of Joan M. Pernecke

Edward Phillipp

In honor of Martin Stanton Family at Easter

Jeanne Stanton

In honor of Anjali Tekchandani on her 50th birthday

Geeta Chennareddy

Tom and Susan Wilkens

In honor of Maria Luisa Velez

Marianela Gonzalez

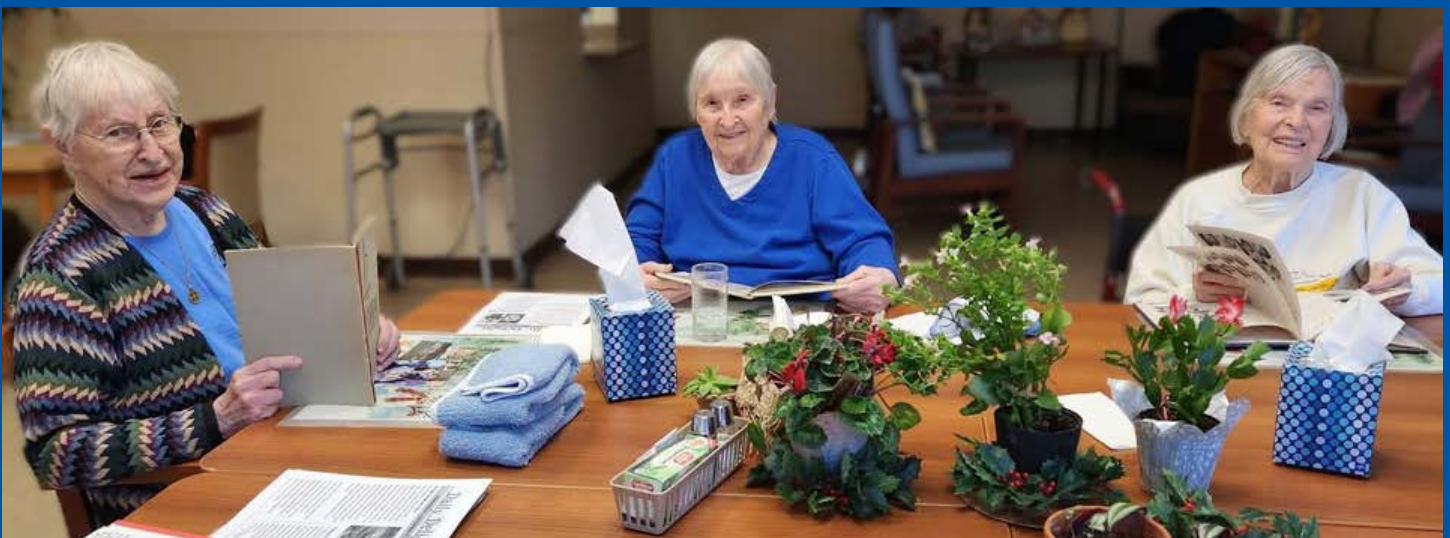
In gratitude for Uncle Tom Zilla and all aunts and uncles

whose presence

in our lives matter

Kate Zilla

We are very grateful to the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation



Sr. Benita (Marese Coffey '49), Sr. Callista (Patricia Kaley '48), and Sr. Rita (Rita Nowak '51) spend an afternoon in St. Joseph Court, sharing memories and stories while looking at their St. Scholastica High School yearbooks.

Annual Stewardship Report

Fiscal Year 2024-2025



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, July 2025

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Every effort has been made to accurately acknowledge our donors' gifts for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!

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The sisters in St. Joseph Court Infirmary
enjoy their life of dignity together
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We are deeply grateful for your prayers,
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not only able to care for our elder sisters' basic needs, but also provide them with care and activities that enrich their days.

Sr. Rita Nowak enjoys the polka music at
Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar's birthday, with Sr.
Judith Zonsius' support.

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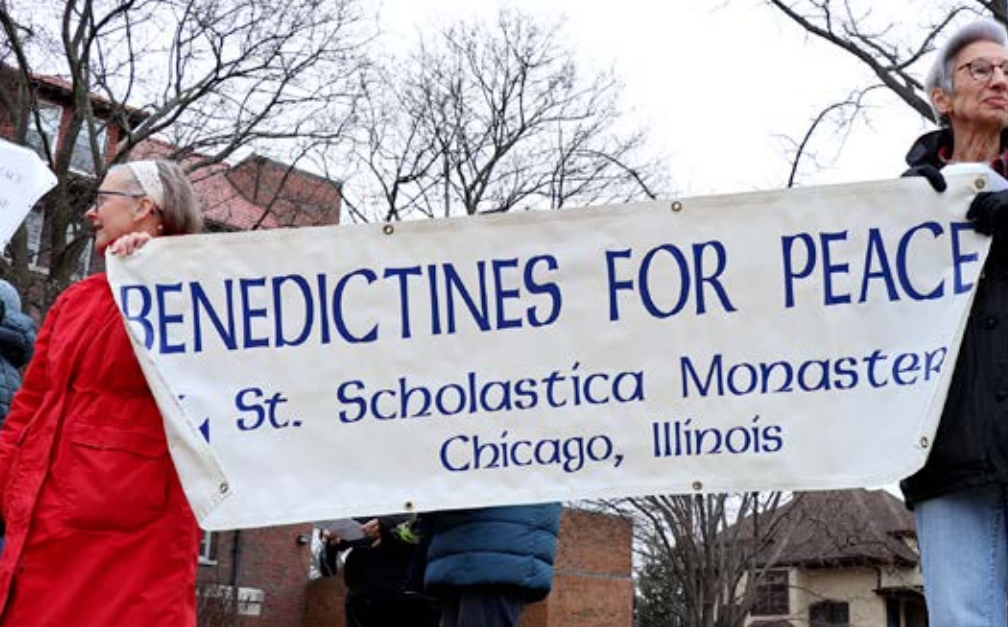
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*Thank you for
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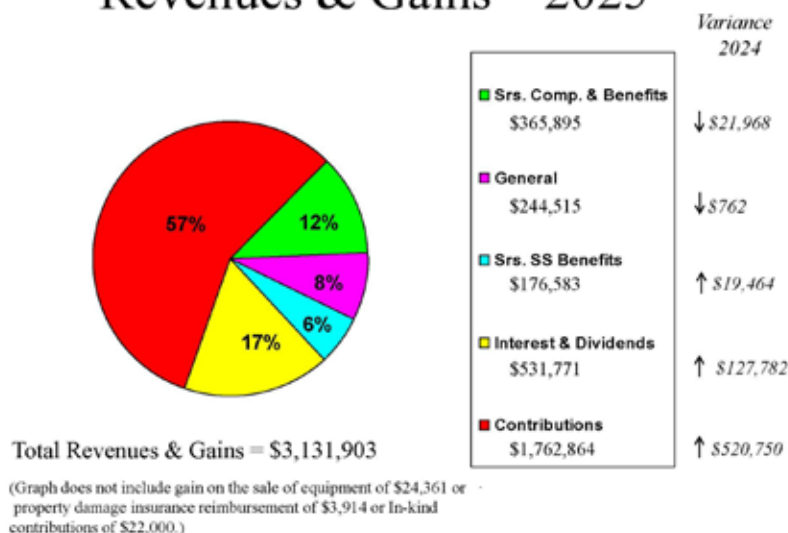
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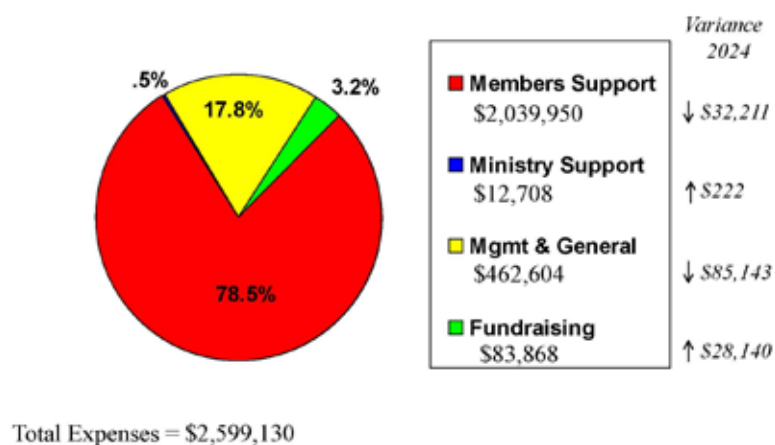
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Expenses and Losses – 2025



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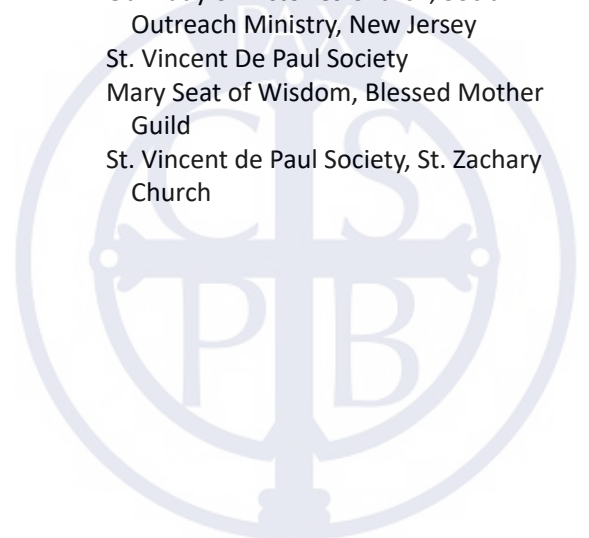
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Benedictine Legacy Society

The following benefactors remembered the Benedictine Sisters in their wills or trusts for which bequests or gifts were made during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

JoAnne Festle
Jean and Louis Glunz III
Robert Pruchnik

Thomas Sharp
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Helen and Donald Wahls

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

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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.

Other ways to Partner with Us in Mission

Pray for the Benedictine Community

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

Become a Monthly Donor

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

Matching Gifts

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

Donor-Advised Fund DAF

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

IRA Charitable Rollover

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

Appreciated Stock

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

Memorial Gifts

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

Memorial Card

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

Celebration or In Honor of Someone Special

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

Legacy Society

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

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

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



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St. Scholastica Chicago

Reunion for All Alumnae

September 20, 2026

Reunion For All!

See pages 10-11