God Knows What is Best

An Interview with Oblate Deacon John Chavez and the profound influence of the late Sister Joan Hentges, OSB

By Siobhán O'Neill Meluso
Winter/Spring Issue 2022, vol. XXXII, no. 2

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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 or 773.764.2413 x241. If you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter who would like to be included in a future mailing, please encourage them to contact us with their current name and address. Thank you and enjoy this issue!
Letter from the Prioress

Dear Friends,

Our mission as Benedictine women is a profound calling. 1500 years after our patrons Benedict and Scholastica first established the Benedictine Way of Life, we continue to seek God through Ora et Labora, our daily prayer and work. We continue to seek God in prayer and community and to serve where there is need. Many of our Sisters have been teachers at regional parishes and at one or both of our schools – St. Scholastica High School in Chicago or Mount St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon City, CO. Over our 160-year history, our work has evolved from teaching to serving as spiritual directors, counselors, campus ministers, and advocates for immigration and social justice issues.

In spite of the pandemic environment of physical distancing, the threat of global warming, and the challenge of racial reckoning, we find hope in the success stories of those we have served. In this issue of Sacro Speco, discover how our late Sister Joan Hentges, OSB encouraged Deacon John Chavez not only to become an Oblate in Colorado, but also to follow his calling to the Diaconate. You’ll read about Maria Carreira (’79 SSA Chicago graduate) and her flourishing linguistics career. Maria recently established the Heritage Language Exchange, a program to serve teachers of immigrant students. She recognized the need through her experience as a Cuban immigrant adapting to the U.S. and as a young student in my Spanish class years ago. Students like her inspired my colleagues and me as we formed the heritage language curriculum at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in the late 90s.

The Sisters and I continue to find new ways to connect virtually now and into the future. We continue discerning our future together to “right-size” our housing needs and hope to share more soon. Thank you for your support and prayers for this venture. And we hope to gather in June for our Annual Testimonial Dinner.

Peace,

Judith Murphy, OSB

Letters From You

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

Email smeluso@osbchicago.org with subject line “For Sacro Speco Letters.”

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

We will publish letters as space permits.
Monastery News

On August 28th, Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB celebrated her 108th birthday. Sister Vivian is “the oldest living Benedictine in the World!” Congratulations!! We are grateful and blessed by her over 87 years as a Benedictine Sister of Chicago.

On September 11, Oblate Nancy Labiak led an interactive and exploratory talk on her personal journey along the Camino entitled: ”Following the Field of Stars: One Pilgrim’s Journey on The Camino de Santiago de Compostela.” In her presentation Nancy shared that in the spring of 2014 at age 67, she embarked on the most physically challenging ordeal and yet the most life-giving accomplishment of her life. Nancy's tales of her struggles and triumphs to reach the shrine of the Apostle James the Greater was an inspiration to all in attendance in-person, virtually and on-demand. Oblate Nancy is a living example of perseverance!

Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB, Oblate Kathleen Myers and members of Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI) continue to advocate for a “world of inclusion” through their social justice promotion. On Sept. 25, they all attended a public witness/vigil to protest the continuance of Title 42 (denying entry into the U.S. without a hearing or any proof of contagion) as well as to support all our immigrant brothers and sisters. At the intersection of Ashland/Division/Milwaukee (near the Blue Line), their presence was seen as they held signs in solidarity for an end to this injustice.

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago hosted a Virtual Season of Creation Prayer Service on Oct. 4th. This gathering brought to mind the importance and challenges that humanity faces in coming to grips with Ecological Conversion. This service incorporated prayer, scripture readings, and a short video, all highlighting once again, the significance of Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si.

Betty Jackson, (pictured above left), of Hyde Park area of Chicago was received as an Oblate candidate by Sister Judith Murphy, OSB in a private ceremony on Saturday October 23, 2021. She is being mentored by Oblate Colleen Mullarkey, (picutred right), who is also a Hyde Park resident.

Chicago area members of Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) organized the third annual Meet Our Sisters Tour, a collaborative National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) event designed to raise awareness about the hundreds of Catholic Sisters who live and serve in Chicagoland. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago welcomed guests via Zoom for a LIVE Chapel Tour led by several Sisters. Vocation Minister Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, with her Chicago based Vocation colleagues, hosted the “Chicago’s Got Sisters Virtual Event” Oct. 30th. This event began with a short talk on the theme of “Discerning with the Saints.” Time for prayer and reflection; as well as brief introductions to the diverse group of communities and charisms took place.

Our annual Donor Appreciation Mass, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, went virtual! Although we missed gathering with our family, friends, and benefactors, again this year, we felt your presence. At the closing of Mass, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago extended their hands in a final blessing for all our Alumnae, Donors, Oblates, and Friends. We are grateful to all of you!

Genevieve Franciska Hane, daughter of Oblates Benedict and Rachel Hane (2019-2021)

Genevieve Franciska Hane, 2 years and 7 months, of Glen Ellyn, passed away suddenly on October 10, 2021. An avid artist who enjoyed the mediums of sand piles, playdough, crayons, and finger painting; reader of all books; piano key pounder, drummer and singer; botanist and mud pie baker; she hugged all and lit up the lives of everyone around her. She could play and swing at a park for hours and was working on her ukulele skills. Genevieve typically knew exactly what she wanted and how to get her loved ones to change their plans and follow her lead. She loved gymnastics and was fine-tuning her summersault and balance beam abilities. She enjoyed trying new sports and activities, but it was the giggle and cuddle fests with beloved friends that she enjoyed more than the games themselves. An honorary Benedictine Oblate, she knew how to say her dinner prayers and loved gathering with her community in person and online. Genevieve knew how loved she was, and returned that love abundantly. Genevieve will forever be remembered in her loved ones’ stories.

Please continue to keep Oblates Benedict and Rachel Hane and family in prayer.
God Knows What is Best
An Interview with Oblate Deacon John Chavez and the profound influence of the late Sister Joan Hentges, OSB
by Siobhán O'Neill Meluso

16 years ago, a youth minister named John Chavez was just another parishioner attending Christ the King, a large parish in Pueblo, Colorado. He wasn’t particularly fond of Sister Joan Hentges, OSB, who served alongside Monsignor Tom Adrian as the church’s pastoral associate. He felt excluded from the inner-serenity and grace she exuded. Over time, her Benedictine hospitality and spiritual mentorship won him over, paving the way for him to not only become an Oblate but, as of August 2021, also serve in the Deaconate.

“Are you a deacon or a visiting deacon?” parishioners frequently asked Chavez, who’d been struggling for years with his vocation. One time, Sister Joan overheard this exchange. She grabbed him gently by the arm, turned him around, looked him straight in the eyes, and delivered words he’d never forget. “Alright mister. God has been calling you for a long time and you’re ignoring that call. It’s time for you to pay attention. Since it’s Lent, make this your Lenten discernment to become a deacon. I want your answer by Easter!” Sister Joan didn’t have to wait long. It’s as though her certainty gave him the confidence to finally accept the challenge. Shocking even himself, he responded “Okay, Sister!” to which Sister Joan replied, “It’s about time!”

But there was a roadblock ahead: the next formation class wouldn’t begin for another year.

Armed with a clear sense of direction, Chavez waited patiently to begin the formal process. Once he started, and over the course of the next four plus years, he relied on his Benedictine spirituality – everything from the tenets to finding the Monastery and listening through God’s voice in prayer and lectio – to guide him as he navigated this life-changing journey.

And then came an unexpected twist.

Despite Chavez’s comfort with youth ministry, the formation process required a rotation in a different field. When Deacon Dan Leetch, a fellow Oblate who works in prison ministry, encouraged Chavez to join him, Chavez initially resisted. “I didn’t think this was my calling.” But when a volunteer spot at Canon City Prison became available, “I overcame my initial fears” and gave it a try.

Having never been surrounded by barbed wires or buzzed through security doors, his unease eventually gave way to connection after he surrendered in prayer and shared his faith struggles with ten young inmates. This was yet another reminder of Sister Joan’s encouraging words: God knows what is best. (Continued. page 6)
“In spite of myself, I fell in love with prison ministry,” shared Deacon Chavez who recently applied to the Colorado Department of Corrections to become the Associate Chaplain for the Youthful Offender Service.

After almost five years of self-examination and discovery, ordination day finally arrived. While the days and the weeks to arrive at this extraordinary, hard-fought moment seemed long, the formation process flew by for Chavez. “The grace-filled day of ordination was a day we all stayed in the moment,” Chavez recalls. “I’ll never forget kneeling before the bishop and being presented the Book of the Gospels. The responsibility that comes with proclaiming the Word, and the laying on the hands during the ceremony symbolizing being part of that apostolic tradition is something I’ll cherish in my ministry as a Deacon.”

Assigned to Christ the King Parish where it all began, Chavez was reunited with Pastor Fr. Carl Wharton whom he met at a search retreat 20 years prior. God brought them together again.

Deacon Chavez looks forward to offering a maximum service to God despite not knowing what that looks like and is open to it. Two oblates in Pueblo, Rich and Teresa Dudley waited until after John’s ordination so he could celebrate the baptism of their grandchild at this first baptism as a deacon. In the meantime, Deacon Chavez continues to “Listen with the ear of his heart,” as St. Benedict proclaimed in the prologue of The Rule. And of course, he continues to meet with the Colorado Oblate group with Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB.

Deacon Chavez’s job at the Pueblo Diocese Chancery keeps him busy and his services as a Deacon at Christ the King Parish, in Pueblo is right where he is supposed to be as God knows what’s best.

"The grace-filled day of ordination was a day we all stayed in the moment"

-Oblate Deacon John Chavez
The baptism of little Brixton Calderon was at Christ the King Parish where Dcn. Chavez is assigned. Sr. Joan Hentges spent at least 40 years there. The baptismal font was donated to Christ the King by the Hentges Family.

Deacon John Chavez on ordination day.

L-R: Mercedes Hansen, Tristan Hansen, Dcn. Chavez and Janae Hansen: Nieces and nephew of Chavez.

Top right and middle right photo is of the deacons during Ordination. Bottom right photo-Final Formation Class photo in the Chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Front Row: (L-R): Immanuel Santistevan, Carl Cook, John Chavez. Back Row: (L-R): Alonso Kennedy; Edwin Schmidt, Josh Boden; Chris Peterson, Paul Wolyn.

The baptism of little Brixton Calderon was at Christ the King Parish where Dcn. Chavez is assigned. Sr. Joan Hentges spent at least 40 years there. The baptismal font was donated to Christ the King by the Hentges Family.
Photos, top row, left to right, 1) 50th Reunion class, 1971, assemble for a group photo at the SSA reunion luncheon at Chateau Ritz 2) 1971 Alumnae Nancy De Napoli modeling the gym uniform 3) Members of SSA 1960 gather for a group photo. Second row, l to r, 1) Class of 1970 50th Reunion finally celebrating in-person! 2) 1965 Susie’s all smiles! 3) The three musketeers from 1980 enjoying the yearbook 40 years on! Third row, l to r, 1) 1961 SSA Alumnae joyful to gather with the other classes 2) Sister Judith Murphy, OSB and SSA ’60 at the podium, 3)1991 grads with Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB SSA ’70 photo below -2001 Alumnae with Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB at right; Bottom left, 1) 1981 Alumnae the largest participating class at SSA Reunion! Congrats! SSA Reunion luncheon was held Sept. 19 at Chateau Ritz. On Sept. 18th, a limited number of Alumnae celebrated Mass at the St. Scholastica Chapel. Thank you all for a joyous weekend!
Rosie Lee Humes Randle was born on November 7, 1933 (but normally celebrated her birthday on November 2) on a plantation outside of Harriston, Mississippi near Natchez. Rosie was the youngest child of Cordelia Humes (nee McCoy) and Steve Humes, who were sharecroppers. Rosie always had a desire to love and serve the Lord. She recalled that, when she was seven years, she told her mother, “I just want to be good, say my prayers, and read my Bible.” Mama said, “You will, baby. You will.” Rosie was a diligent student who walked twelve miles to school every day. She had the distinction of being the only person in her family to graduate from the eighth grade, a mark of her perseverance and her family’s support in the Jim Crow South.

Rosie married Roger Randle on April 15, 1950. She moved to Chicago, Illinois, when she was seventeen years old. On that train ride, she was expecting her only child, Susie, who was born in Chicago on February 22, 1951. During those early years in Chicago, Rosie worked as a housekeeper at the Allerton Hotel (now known as the Warwick Allerton Hotel), one of downtown Chicago’s most historic hotels. She made the acquaintance of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, when she lived in the Cabrini Green Homes on Chicago’s North Side when the water broke in her apartment and the sisters gave her a bucket of water. In the early 1960s, Rosie began working as a custodian at St. Scholastica Academy. Rosie worked seven days a week—six days at St. Scholastica and as a housekeeper in the homes of several families on Sundays. She began attending Saturday Mass at the Monastery and, over time, decided to convert to Catholicism. Rosie’s daughter, Susie, graduated from St. Scholastica in the Class of 1970. Susie was one of the first members of the school’s Afro-American Club and was one of the first African-American students to graduate from the school. Rosie walked to work and saved bus fare to pay Susie’s tuition so that her daughter could have an excellent education. Rosie later gave part of her retirement savings to start the Rosie Randle Scholarship, which paid for an African American student to attend St. Scholastica. The scholarship played an important role in the school becoming more diverse until it closed in the late 2013.

(Excerpt from the Obituary provided by the family of Rosie Randle).
SSA Spanish Class Births the Study and Advocacy for Language Minority Students
An Interview with SSA Chicago ’79 Alumna, Dr. Maria M. Carreira Ph.D.

by Siobhán O'Neill Meluso

Maria M. Carreira, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Spanish, California State University, Long Beach, and her family left Cuba when she was 8 to move to Spain where her paternal grandparents are from. She never imagined four years later, moving again to the United States and being taught by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago at St. Scholastica High School. It was the many caring and warm teachers she encountered at SSA that influenced her life’s work in linguistics and language minority research, unknownst to the Sisters as well.

By the time Maria Carreira had reached SSA, she had only been in the United States for a few years. It was very noticeable that there were hardly any Hispanics in the school. “It certainly was not the norm and the Sisters may not have been trained on how to deal with language minority students,” recalls Maria. However, Sister Judith Murphy, OSB intuitively knew what to do. “I remember Sister Judith even before the first day of instruction, had called my house and asked me to take an assessment exam.” Dr. Carreira shares that beginning with assessment is crucial for language minority students like herself because educators can then build a curriculum responsive to the student based on the results of the assessment. From that assessment, Sister Judith realized that focusing on verb conjugations for Spanish 1 and 2 would not be helpful to Maria, but instead focusing on literacy was the route to take with her and other language minority students.

When young immigrant students begin school, the focus is on acclimating them to the new language and culture. Thus, Maria had lost some of her fluency in Spanish through migration and acclimation to English. She was quickly learning English in tandem. Because language acquisition takes about 7 years, Maria was doing quite well adjusting to a new language while maintaining her native Spanish at home. By the time she arrived at SSA, Sister Judith applied a basic principle of language teaching and learning: instructors need to build on what learners bring to the classroom. Acquiring a second language is different: the student starts at the very beginning. Language minority students, like Maria, bring some skills but many deficiencies as well. Students whose home language is Spanish might be placed into Spanish 1 for formal instruction. That is a disservice to students says Maria based on her personal and professional experience; this does not take into account her competency in the home language. Sister Judith realized that was not the best way to teach Maria.
During Maria’s freshmen year she had a lot of one-on-one time with Sister Judith as her literacy skills improved. This was a very meaningful experience that Maria has never forgotten. Instead of being singled out in a less positive way because of her minority language, she was singled out in a very good way by recognizing her proficiency in the home language. This benefited Maria. By the end of her high school career, Maria had excelled and was Valedictorian for St. Scholastica High School’s class of 1979. Taking Spanish for granted, Maria majored in Math and Computer Science at Loyola University Chicago.

At Loyola, her love of languages was strengthened in her studies of French and Italian. After undergrad, Maria tried one year of law school but felt it was not for her. Linguistics was the natural path for Maria. She pursued an MA and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, specializing in phonology, a more technical part of linguistics. It wasn’t until she arrived in California and worked at California State University Long Beach (CSULB) that she encountered a sizeable population of native or heritage Spanish speakers. Through working with these students Maria began to identify with them and realized their shared experience. So, Maria found her way back to Spanish and teaching. She has taught from 1998 to the present.

In 2013 Maria co-wrote a book Voces: Latino Students on Life in the United States. In the preface she proudly credits St. Scholastica and how the Sisters and teachers inspired her to know and love literature. Their way of teaching demonstrated social justice in action. “Their work with me was the real work of social justice,” Maria shares. Teachers like Sister Rita Nowak and Sister Patricia Crowley also inspired Maria. She goes on to explain, that the field of teaching languages to language minority students is much more than teaching language. It is about reaching the learners and more sensitively contributing to their experience in a way which better enables students to thrive in their new homeland. Many obstacles may occur, but regarding language, minority students have strengths, including their family culture and faith, which are important factors for Latino students. But these principles apply to all language minority students. The experience of coming from difficult home countries makes these students more resilient. These are important resources for the learners whose virtues and life values are crucial for society at large.

During the pandemic, a period of time when creativity and desire to connect were necessary, Maria established The Heritage Language Exchange program. Some 16 years ago Maria co-founded the National Heritage Language Resource Center (NHLRC) at UCLA with Russian Professor Olga E. Kagan. At this center she published and developed activities for teaching heritage languages. In 2020, the pandemic allowed Maria to see the amazing potential of Zoom and online conferences. She easily developed an online Zoom conference for project-based learning for language teachers through NHLRC. Maria was able to pivot during this time and it energized her to develop the HLXchange (Heritage Language Exchange). This idea evolved from addressing some of the issues she had encountered with heritage language teachers in her 16 years at the NHLRC. Instead of talking at teachers, HLXchange utilizes these teachers as resources and contributors to draw on their wisdom.

This past October, Maria reached out to Sister Judith and they spoke about her work with Cristo Rey. “Sister Judith and her colleagues were architects ahead of their time when they began the Cristo Rey school in Pilsen, as the teaching of content in two languages was a novel idea in the late 90s,” Maria said. This model of education was not just to be academic but to be humanistic. "To see students as people and guide them through acculturation and to success in the education system was so far ahead of its time," Maria exclaimed with enthusiasm. Instinctively these ideas were fantastic but Sister Judith wasn’t aware at the time that Maria’s research would affirm that the Cristo Rey model of education is most effective with language minority students and families. An upcoming HLXchange program in February will further update participants about ongoing development in Heritage Language at Cristo Rey.

When Maria was writing her 2013 book, she had an epiphany that Sister Judith had already figured it out in 1975!

Teacher helping student and student helping teacher is the story of Sister Judith Murphy, OSB and Maria Carreira. The trajectories of both their lives were influenced by their interaction to strengthen innovative teaching practices. Maria especially notes the Catholic religion dimension of her education as being one of the most important aspects of her experience at SSA. Sister Judith recalls, "Both Sisters Catherine and Mary Jude’s philosophy that the student-centered education at SSA typified in Maria’s story was a most worthwhile attitude to carry forward to the benefit of a school like Cristo Rey."

Seeing and valuing students as individuals was the most impactful memory Maria felt and emulates in her work with her students and language minority instructors.

SSA Chicago ’79 Alumna, Maria Carreira (left) In Jerusalem (right outside the Old City) with her family in Dec. of 2019. Maria and her family spent Christmas Eve in Bethlehem too! From left to right, Maria, followed by her daughter Margot Mel (22), her son Francis (24), the “baby” Carmen (20), her oldest, Gabriel (27), and her husband Bartlett Mel.
Join us for these upcoming events

**Feast of St. Scholastica Mass**
Thursday, February 10, 2022
5:00 p.m.
To attend virtually please contact:
Siobhan O'Neill Meluso, 773.764.2413 x232
communications@osbchicago.org

**Celtic Spirituality**
A presentation by Mary Deeley
Sunday, January 23, 2022
3:00-5:00 p.m., free (in-person and Zoom)
Open to the public. Limited Capacity.
For more info, contact: Sister Benita Coffey, OSB
773.764.2413 x327

**Book Discussion Group**
Led by Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB
Barbara Brown's *An Altar in the World*
The group will meet on the third Wednesday of each month throughout 2022 at 10-11:00 a.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Central. We will discuss each chapter and share our experiences.
For more info or to register, contact:
Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB, 773.764.2413 x374

**Connections and Callings**
**God Calls Us As We Are**
Thursdays: Feb. 17, Apr. 21, & Jun. 16, 2022
Young women (18-50) are invited to evenings in prayer, reflection, and discussion on the idea of vocation.
To learn more, contact:
Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB,
vocations@osbchicago.org

**Catholic Sisters Week**
March 8-14, 2022, free
To learn more, contact:
Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 773.338.7063

**What happened to the Roman Catholic Church? What next? by Gabriel Moran**
Book review and Discussion with
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
7:00 p.m. | Zoom
For more info or to register, contact:
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB, 773.764.2413 x374

**World Labyrinth Day**
Led by Oblate Dan Raven and
Sister Mary Melady, OSB
Saturday May 7, 2022 Noon - 8 p.m.
To learn more, contact:
Sister Mary Melady, OSB, 773.764.2413 x231

Looking for support on your journey?
Our Sisters also offer spiritual direction and counseling. For more information:
www.osbchicago.org/directionandcounseling
Prayer Ministry

We remember you in our daily prayers.

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests from June 12, 2021 through November 1, 2021

Memorials

In memory of deceased members of Class of 1957
Marilyn Mayworm McKeown
In memory of deceased students and teachers of the Class of 1954
Marilyn Oetring
In memory of Marie Gormaly Allen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Katherine Ambrosio
Linda and Terrance Strauch
In memory of Jan Anderson
Nancy Louise Labiak
In memory of Berenice B. Babler
Virginia Lock
In memory of James H. Babler
Maribeth Babler
In memory of Thomas A. Bacci
Joanne Spata
In memory of Katharina Bappert
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Katherine Bathke
Mary Schill
In memory of Judith Beaumont
Judith Lee
In memory of Sheila Berner
Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB
In memory of Raymond Betz
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Virginia Betz Fontana
In memory of Shirley Biar
Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB
In memory of Roland “Rollie” Francis Biegler
Kathleen Murray
In memory of Marjorie Igliori Boesen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Rosalie Brunk
Virginia Lock
In memory of Sandra Bullard
Mike and Eileen Moorman
In memory of Mildred Burns
Andrea Ciccone
In memory of Madeline Cabanski
Kathleen Murray
In memory of Bill Cain
John and Mardo Petrovich
In memory of Patricia Jane Cates
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Donna Marie Calderisi
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Janet Royce
In memory of Roberta Knisley Christensen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Justin Coil
Mike and Eileen Moorman
In memory of Margaret “Peggy” Cooney
Siobhan O’Neill Meluso and Edgar Meluso
In memory of Robert Cramer
Bill and Ellen Wirth
Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB
In memory of John Delisi
Joan Delisi
Delisi family and friends
Beverly and Gerald Gust
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ivantic
Kathleen and Thomas Kruse
Georgene and Robert Petrusky
William and Mary Ann Zorzy
In memory of Leo Devarenne
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Mardo and John Petrovich
In memory of Alexander de Vryer
Francine O’Connor
Eloise O’Connor Roche
In memory of Kathryn Dolan
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Suzanne Kathryn Dupré
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of deceased members of the Ehrman family from 2002-2013
Virginia Ehrmann Koerber
In memory of Matthew Eiden
Al and Eileen Samuelson
In memory of Elizabeth Ernst
Michael and Eileen Moorman
In memory of Jack and Julie Evans
Leslie Dickerson
In memory of Ma. Priscila (Celang) Calma Evasco
Paz Aceron and family
In memory of Patrick E. Fahey
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Nancy Dupre Fallucco
Laureen and Karl Youstey
In memory of Anne Marie Kapner Flood
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Jeanne A. Flood
John J. Flood
In memory of Peter J. Flood
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Jeanne A. Flood
John J. Flood
In memory of Donald W. Foster
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Rose Ann Foster
In memory of John Fuller
Lois C. Gleason
In memory of Loretta Gehl Gallagher
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Barbara Eiden McDonough Gauer
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Martha Conlon
Karen and Rich Klicki
Mary Joy and Bernard Klos
Deidre Kosmin
Sally and Phil Meno
Elizabeth and Jack Pinter
Patricia Prusa
In memory of Grace Wrenn Gaughan
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Judith Borchers
Marguerite (Peggy) Cusick
Sheila McGuire
Don Winslow
In memory of Kathy Geroski
Jill Newberger
In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB
Suzanne Walsh
In memory of Helen Hoyle Gola
Doris Hoyle Batt
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of John and Therese Green and their deceased children
Joseph Green
In memory of Felice Carey Guardalabene
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Doris J. Kreutzer Haas
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Terri Ellis
Sean Haas
In memory of Genevieve Franciska Hane
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Sister Benita Coffey, OSB and Benedictine Oblates of Chicago
In memory of Patricia Boyle Hankins
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Betty Lou McChesney Haus
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Carol Sutherland Healy
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Rosalee Hedin
Virginia Lock
In memory of Sister Joan Hentges, OSB
Mary Jo and Hal Brewer
In memory of Sheila McGovern Hohmann
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Barbara Allen Nohr
In memory of Sister Gertrude Holtz, OSB
Anonymous
In memory of Chris Ingegno
Fe Fernandez
In memory of Judith Heelan Jensen
Sharon (Nemeth) and Larry Barr
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Phyllis and Jon Graham
In memory of Adolph Jerdee
Margaret Heaphy
In memory of Connie Jersin
Patricia Doriot Jersin
In memory of Ronald W. Johnson
Charlotte Johnson
In memory of Juanita Jones
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of John Paul Kenny, Jr.
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Sayran Kika
Patricia Heineman-Vernon
In memory of Shirley M. Kinnerk
Kathryn and James Hillenbrand
In memory of Margaret Klein
Sue Jans Aste
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Anne Kneesel
Tom and Terri Ivantic
William Ivantic
In memory of Bert E. Lahman
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Diane Lahman
In memory of Ninette Joseph Laroche
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Mary Levsai
Rev. Robert Oldershaw
Angela Schrimpl
In memory of Mary Lerps
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Angela Schrimpl
In memory of Patrick Murphy
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In memory of Carol Smessaert Nee
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Jackie LeSanche
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Margaret Heaphy
In memory of John and Margaret Repp
Margaret Heaphy
In memory of Richard and Helen Repp
Margaret Heaphy
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James M. Richter family
In memory of George Radacy and Sharon Rodie
Susan Ernst
In memory of Mary Christine Roman
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Anita Dwyer
Ann C. Gaul
Barbara Hartnett
Susan Langlotz
Noreen Ferrari and Barbara Logue
Thomas Morley
Gay Norton

“...I remember you constantly in my prayers.”
W. Christine Rauscher
William and Audrey Rooney
Darlene Solano
In memory of Janet Sarsha
Bonnie Nordstrom
In memory of Sister Johnette Sawyer, OSB
Mickey Smith
In memory of Estelle “Sis” McMahon Schaefer
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Marjorie McDevitt
In memory of Madonna Margaret Siles
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In memory of Donald Smith
The Dominik family

In memory of Vicki Vetrano Sopcak
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In memory of Raymond Wenholz
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In memory of Roland Wilson
Patricia Hartmann
In memory of Marie and Fred Zalaznik
Margaret Heaphy
In memory of William Zielinski
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Sister Suzanne Zuercher, OSB
Joseph and Julie Zuercher

Mary Warner
In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on her 90th birthday, her 70th anniversary of her profession, and her lifetime commitment to social justice
Kathryn Donoal
Jean Hellman Ryan
In honor of Molly Ingraffia
Denise Umpierr
In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on her 108th birthday
Paul Ivantic
William Ivantic
Eileen and Lawrence Klonowski
Keith and Mary Beth Self
In honor of Sister Callista Kaley, OSB
Katherine Thinnes
In honor of Tom and Lucy Keating on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Tom and Lucy Keating
In honor of Patricia Marseille McMenamin
Martha Smith
In honor of Matthew and Dorothy Miholic on their 70th Wedding Anniversary
Gertrude Miholic
In honor of Carolyn Murphy
Anonymous
In honor of Ron and Rita Nemchausky on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Ron and Rita Nemchausky
In honor of Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB in appreciation for her teaching me so much and more than she knows.
Alissa Ballot
In honor of living members of the Richter and Hansen families
James M. Richter family
In honor of Sister Melinda Roper, MM
Gloria St. John
In honor of Sherrill Sander on her 80th birthday
Dominic and Margaret Caminiti
In honor of Tom and Nancy Schoenberg on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Cathy Ingraffia
In honor of Sister Jane Smith, OSB for her great teaching at QAS
John D. Hofherr
In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tate
Patricia Martin
Blessings on Roger and Pam Testin on their anniversary
Rita Testin

Special Occasions

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB
Barbara Wahler
In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on her 90th birthday
Marjorie Auer
Phyllis A. King
Madonna McCutcheon
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In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on her 70th Jubilee
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Patricia and John Coffey III
Connie Godfrey and the Colorado Oblates
Carol Hines
Helen Lyon and Lyon Sisters:
Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon
Jeanne and John Schultz

Prayer Ministry-June 12, 2021- November 1, 2021
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.

Save the Date!
St. Scholastica Academy Chicago Reunion Weekend: September, 17-18, 2022

Save the Date!
26th Annual Testimonial Dinner and Awards
Wednesday, June 8, 2022
Park Ridge Country Club

We are very grateful to the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation
Message from the Prioress

Dear Friends,

We are very grateful for your encouragement of our planning to “right size” our living situation to better fit our needs as we continue our life together as a smaller group, still committed to sharing our vowed life and our community work and prayer, in Rogers Park. Our continued presence in Chicago and Colorado, serving as we are able where there is need, allows us to continue our witness to Benedictine life and spirituality.

Our Oblates, both in Chicago and in Colorado, thrive in number and in spirit, and we thank them for also witnessing to shared Benedictine values and spirit, as they daily live in the spirit of The Rule of Benedict, touching many lives. We welcome too the Oblates’ support of our works of peace and justice.

We are in awe of the response of our friends and acquaintances to our appeals to support our ongoing needs, such as #Giving Tuesday. Also, you who connect with us through matching gifts programs, donor advised funds, and varied alternative gifting suggestions are appreciated profoundly. We are also thankful for the foresight of people in our Legacy Society and Memorial Benefactors, alumnae and friends who have benefitted from our teaching and mentoring, and who arrange for substantial bequests to continue to support our way of life.

And we appreciate the grants we receive from generous foundations: SOAR helps fund the respectful quality of life for our sisters who receive health care in our St. Joseph Court. This year we were able to participate virtually in the SOAR Gala in Washington D.C. This lovely event took place while SOAR’s Sister Peggy Scarano, OP was our guest at the Monastery. The Bernard Heerey Foundation values enabling our Sisters to age in place with their community, by support that makes possible at the motherhouse the needed special health care. A Brach Foundation grant supports on-going education and collaborative meetings with appropriate resources to help keep our processes and practices current.

You will find our Annual Report in this issue of Sacro Speco. We are most grateful for all the ways you support our life in Benedictine community and our works in the church and the world. We pray for you daily with thankful hearts.

Gratefully yours,

Prioress, Sister Judith Murphy, OSB

List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order. Please see page 30-31 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021. 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
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SOAR! Support Our Aging Religious
Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

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Other ways to Partner with Us in Mission

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
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