



Sacro Speco

Sacred Space

THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE + WINTER/SPRING 2020



Spiritual Direction: "Holy Listening"

A Year in Namibia with the Tutzing Missionary Benedictines

By Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

Winter/Spring Issue 2020, vol. XXX, 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



*Sister Judith Murphy, OSB
Prioress*

*D*ear Friends,

We are told that St Benedict saw the whole world as in a single ray of light. Media and communication offer us a similar opportunity in the 24/7 world news cycle. The world seems smaller, yet there is so much to know and know about: the world itself, human history, diverse cultures, and so many needs to recognize. New insight calls for growth in understanding of ourselves and our call to act.

Pope Francis calls our church to respond in dynamic love in this more inclusive world. He speaks of the need for the church to be a “field hospital”. What have we to bring to so much need, to respond to the needs of persons at the existential peripheries? How are we to respond to the realities that threaten the earth, our common home? How can we grow in understanding the complexities of justice and diversity inherent in global migration? These and other challenges can overwhelm us. And they can call us to prayer for the loving grace of God to enable us to see possibilities for response, however limited or leveraged by cooperation. St. Oscar Romero reminded us that no one can do everything, but each of us can do something.

In this issue of *Sacro Speco* you will hear about Sister Patricia Crowley's year in Namibia, sharing the Benedictine way of life with young women who are responding to the call to religious life in community. And in turn she will share some of her understanding of how Benedictine values are lived out in Benedictine life there. Closer to home, our annual Alumnae reunions each fall let us see myriad ways that women who value Benedictine Christian values parlay them with wonderful and diverse talents and interests into service of real human needs in family, society and the world.

Life in community, as life in family, church and neighborhood, brings those human needs to everyday scale in which we can respond.

Peace,

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

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.
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We will publish letters as space permits.

Monastery News

In August, the annual Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) assembly (Aug. 13-16) welcomed, for the first time, younger sisters to be present at the table during talks and discussions. This year, Giving Voice Sisters were invited to join the conversation and provide their perspectives on religious life today. Our own [Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB](#) is a Giving Voice Core Team Member. She enjoyed listening to and participating in this important assembly where she accompanied [Prioress Judith Murphy, OSB](#), and met other women religious leadership members who have attended the conference for years.

On August 28th, [Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB](#) celebrated her 106th birthday and officially became “the oldest living Benedictine in the World!” Congratulations!! We are grateful and blessed by her 85 years as a Benedictine Sister of Chicago.

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, [Oblate Kathlyn Myers](#) and [Sister Benita Coffey, OSB](#) were significantly involved in the annual educational event sponsored by Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, (SBI): *CREATING COMMUNITIES OF WELCOME: What would You have us do?* Co-sponsored by Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Hyde Park, 80 participants enjoyed an outstanding panel comprised of Carmen Nanko-Fernandez, theology professor at CTU; Irakere Picon of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition; and Representative Jan Schakowsky of the U.S. House of Representatives. Following the event, over a dozen participants called attention to the need for humane and just immigration policies by holding signs as a public witness on the corners of 55th Street and Hyde Park Blvd.

During the last week of September, [Finance Officer Roberta Bieganski](#) and [Community Treasurer Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, OSB](#) attended the annual gathering of the Resource Conference for Religious Institutes (RCRI). This conference, in affiliation with the U.S. Catholic Bishops (USCCB), provides legal and financial information to treasurers and finance profes-

sionals who represent religious communities. The annual four-day gathering offers 40+ presentations covering a wide variety of issues: property, employees, investments, elder care, governance of religious communities, and social security. Following the sessions, Sister Mary Ann and Roberta always look forward to meaningful exchanges with fellow attendees.

St. Scholastica Monastery represented one of 350 sites on the highly anticipated Open House Chicago weekend held on October 19-20th. In its 9th year, Open House Chicago highlights architectural gems in a variety of neighborhoods and sites encouraging groups of families and friends to visit as many sites as possible. Over the weekend, the St. Scholastica Chapel site for #ohc2019 welcomed over 270 members of the public to our Rogers Park home – guests, neighbors, and even a few alumnae. In the room across the hall from St. Scholastica Chapel, archivist [Sister Virginia Jung, OSB](#) curated an exhibit on [Sister Celestine Fischer, OSB](#), the artist behind the 1920s stained glass window designs that surround our chapel. A prominently featured piece included *De Officio Benedictii*, Sister Celestine’s beautifully intricate, one-of-a-kind book that she created in celebration of the 1400th Anniversary of St. Benedict’s Death (1947). Guests also learned that Sister Celestine painted the stations of the cross housed in St. Scholastica Chapel.

Chicago area members of Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) organized the inaugural 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. For two days of NVAW, St. Scholastica Monastery and the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago welcomed guests. During the week’s final days, Vocation Minister [Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB](#) accompanied young women during Chicago’s Got Sisters, a 24-hour immersive experience in which discerners visit, pray, and enjoy meals at different religious communities throughout Chicago.

“...in memory of her.”

[Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, OSB](#)
(1924-2019)



Sister Eleanore, a native of Chicago, attended St. Hilary Parish School, later enrolled at St. Scholastica High School and was accepted into the community as an aspirant in 1942. She professed her final vows in 1947. She later earned a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and a master’s in English from DePaul University. She taught at the elementary and high school levels. Sister Eleanore served as the St. Scholastica’s English Department Chairperson, Benedictine Sisters Directress of Studies, Executive Secretary to the Prioress, and other responsible community positions. Her masterful command of words, sharp eye for detail, natural talent

for photography, and appreciation for literature are all part of her legacy. She served predominately in Illinois, but also in Colorado.

In the Archdiocese of Chicago, Sister Eleanore taught in parish schools at St. Hilary, St. Symphorosa, St. Lambert (Skokie) and St. Scholastica High School (1957-1992). In the diocese of Pueblo, Sister Eleanore taught at St. Michael, Cañon City, CO.

She passed away on October 29, 2019. To read more about Sister Eleanore’s dedicated life, visit our news blog at www.osbchicago.org/news and look for her story posted on October 31st.



Oblate News

Left to Right: Oblate candidates Eleanore Sanchez, Abbey Algiene, and Ann Wright Ronquillo with Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, in Pueblo, CO.

*O*blates of St. Benedict are individuals who seek a deeper relationship with God through association with a Benedictine community. Deep study of The Rule of St. Benedict guides the candidate's yearlong preparation. When the year ends, the community invites the prospective Oblate to make an Oblation, the solemn promise to, from that point onward, live according to Benedictine principles.

This year, the St. Scholastica Monastery community welcomed three Oblate candidates in Pueblo, CO and two in Chicago, IL. The Pueblo candidate reception was held on August 18th, 2019 at the Offices of the Archdiocese of Pueblo's chapel; the Chicago ceremony was held on November 17th, 2019 at St. Scholastica Chapel. In addition, the Benedictine community witnessed Barbara Wahler, a Chicago-based Oblate candidate from the previous year, make her Oblation.

Now in its 42nd year, St. Scholastica Monastery's Oblate program has 134 active Oblates. Monthly gatherings in Chicago and Pueblo support Oblates as they integrate prayer and work, ora et labora, in their daily lives, exemplifying Benedictine values in the world. During Advent and Lent, the Oblates gather for days of reflection.

The monastery always welcomes Oblates, especially during feast day celebrations. Oblates play an important role in our community: serving as art class leaders, porters, musicians, and community event volunteers. Twenty Oblates live far from Chicago and Pueblo; still, they remain connected to our monastery through regular mailings and prayer. The next time you visit St. Scholastica Monastery, an Oblate may very well be the first person to welcome you!

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Director of Oblates, at bcoffey@osbchicago.org or 773.764.2413 x327.



L to R: Sister Benita with Oblate candidates Linda Lewankosky, Nancy Labiak, Prioress, Sister Judith Murphy, OSB and Oblate Barbara Wahler in Chicago, IL.



L to R: Oblate Barbara Wahler with Sister Judith at the Nov. 17th ceremony (Chicago, IL)..



Alumnae reflections on the five tenets of Benedictine Education:

Love of Learning, Sense of Balance, Respect for the Individual, Stewardship of Gifts, and Community

At SSA, Sister Mary Paul's English class was a revelation. I had my first taste of Shakespeare, and we also studied French literature. I took piano lessons from Sister Mary Louise, who'd studied with the esteemed Chicago pedagogue and composer Rudolph Ganz. I went on to study journalism at Marquette where Jesuits taught theology.

This love of learning impelled me throughout my decades-long and most enjoyable career as performing arts reporter and classical music critic for *The Pioneer Press*. I continue to be an eager student of current events and I'm still trying to master Italian!

-Dorothy Delacoma Andries 1954

In thinking back to my years at St Scholastica, I find myself increasingly appreciative of the content and values that permeated our days under the Benedictine Sisters' gentle but strong wings. Learning was a serious endeavor, but one laced with humor and understanding.

The understanding occurred in three areas. First, we were responsible for our learning, and we were held accountable for demonstrating knowledge. We had to be prepared and focused – or so our dear teachers hoped. The second area of understanding came directly from our teachers who embodied both compassion and stern regard. Our mentors knew that we were self-conscious adolescents with frivolous interests

Once, during botany unit, we were told to scour

the school and monastery grounds for our "Leaf Collection" project. We had to collect 30 different leaves and identify their proper names and defining characteristics (such as shape, venation, etc.) What fun! – running around in the autumn afternoon, laughing, sharing secrets, and – of course – picking leaves for our collection. We dreaded hearing the bell ring and found it difficult to settle down once we returned to the classroom. Dear old Sister Sebastian, the Latin teacher who inherited us after our outdoor fun, waited and waited for us to calm down and turn our attention to Latin declensions. Often, she'd ring a small bell she kept handy for such occasions. When that failed, she smacked her Benedictine ring on the glass top of her desk, and plaintively said, "Girls, girls" with a smile on her face.

The third understanding dealt with the meaning of community and responsibility to one another. Since teen-aged girls are known to act clique-ish, the sisters instructed us to spend one lunch period, on a designated week day, sitting with someone we did not know well – a difficult assignment since we had our usual tables and our usual friends with whom we preferred to share gossip and eat lunch. But, the lesson was not lost on us. We have a responsibility to each other to get out of our comfort zone and befriend someone other than our chosen few. We all need to feel a part of a community; no one should be excluded. This was not an academic lesson but a life lesson – a gentle reminder of our responsibility to reach out to others.

-Jane Fallon LoSasso 1959

I was fortunate to have twelve years of Benedictine education, beginning with St. Lambert parish school in Skokie through St. Scholastica High School in Chicago. The Benedictines' lasting lessons included love of learning, respect for others and self, and the importance of contributing to the community. The Sisters taught us to think, write, reason, and communicate with clarity. Sister Mercedes, Sister Eleanore, and Sister Vivian planted the seeds for my education beyond high school: they influenced my decision to double major in Sociology and Humanistic Studies and pursue a Master's in Library Science. And, in Sister Judine (Judith Borchers), I found a friend for life! Eight years of piano lessons with Sister Callista instilled a lifelong love of classical music and a true understanding of discipline and dedication. Finally, watching Sister Mary Pat (Patricia Crowley) and her family give back to the world guided my years of volunteer work and made me more aware of my blessings.

My father was the first St. Scholastica "Man of the Year" awardee and watching his lifelong dedication to the Benedictines, well after my sister and I had graduated, confirmed the Sisters' importance in all of our lives.

The Benedictine life lessons have stayed with me since first grade, establishing a guiding foundation that will always remain.
-Denise Donofrio 1969

After celebrating our 50th Reunion in September, I was reminded of the lessons great women and a few good men taught us about the world during our four years at SSA. Their influence helped form the people we are today. The Sisters opened our minds to new ideas, showed us how to give voice to our beliefs, and taught us to reach beyond our comfort zones. We learned to treat each day as a sacred gift woven around a heart of wonder.

In Mrs. Burke's freshman English class, we read *A Tale of Two Cities*. In its own revolutionary way, the 1960s, like the French Revolution, was "the best of times and the worst of times". Woodstock and the first moon landing headlined the summer of 1969, right after we graduated. It was a period of perpetual grieving: assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, and Bobby Kennedy. Throughout our SSA years, many of us survived our own personal tragedies and challenges – loss of parents, bad boyfriends, illness, and all kinds of disappointments.

In these revolutionary times, we learned to question authority. Still, we had fun, dancing to some of the greatest music ever – from the Beatles to Led Zeppelin – that still plays on the radio, and not just on the Oldies stations.

I learned Latin from Sister Evelyn who later became a beloved grandmother figure when, after retiring from teaching she assisted Sister Hilary with the countless preschoolers, including my three daughters. No one other than Sister Eleanore could strike fear in my heart with two monosyllabic words – SEE ME. She not only taught critical thinking skills and how to communicate better, she challenged us to be better. In addition, she was also a loyal friend to my aunt, Sister Joanna.

Sister Patricia Coughlin (once known as Sister Andrea) provided important life lessons when we read *The Art of Loving*; Sister Benita taught us religion in a post-Vatican II world and was an integral part of our retreats with Dave Kinsella and Red McLaughlin; and, Sister Callista – a patient piano teacher to my kids – taught us to appreciate all kinds of music, especially classical. Miss Leuschner (now Kathy Riordan) opened our eyes in Careers to new possibilities and the confidence that, as women, we could do anything we set our minds to. And of course, Sister Catherine was a model of grace under pressure in dealing with a thousand diverse teenage women.

As much as we think of today's world as turbulent, we witnessed and often participated in protests for Peace, Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and for and against the Vietnam War. We fought against poverty and apartheid. And, we were right here in Chicago in 1968 during the turbulent Democratic National Convention.

Through it all, the Benedictines helped guide us from freshman girls to senior women. In many ways, we grew up together: the nuns changed their names, removed their habits, and experimented with new hairstyles.

Then and now, we took lessons from the classrooms and corridors of SSA to heart. The women of the Class of '69 were the first in the history of SSA to proudly walk out of the building in a protest! These same women continue to work to make the world a better, safer, more compassionate place.

-Peggy Trapp Cunniff 1969

"1,500 years of Benedictine education celebrate a love for learning, a sense of balance, respect for the individual, stewardship of gifts, and the importance of community."

-Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB

St. Scholastica Alumnae & Teachers Reunite



Photos, top row, left to right, 1) 50th Reunion class, 1969, assemble for their class photo at the SSA reunion in Chicago, 2) 1954 Alumnae and classmates of Sister Karen Bland, OSB pose for a photo; Second row, left to right, 1) 30th reunion SSA grads (1989) with Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB and Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB '70. 2) 1949 Alumnae pause for a photo during cocktail hour at the Jean Marie Ryan Center. Sister Benita Coffey, OSB '49 is seated right 3) 1974 grads wowed the crowd with their very own frame for photos. Third row, l to r, 1) 2009 SSA Alumnae enjoy catching up at reunion 2) 1989 Alumnae are all smiles with Ms. Andrea Ciccione '63; Bottom left, 1) 1999 Alumnae with Sister Virginia Jung, OSB at SSA Reunion.



Save the Date!
St. Scholastica
Academy Chicago
Reunion Weekend:
 September, 19-20, 2020

Left to right: 1) SSA Cañon City '94 alumna Jeanette Hohman with Sister Benita Coffey, OSB (center) and Lora Eslick former SSA art teacher.

2) Sister Benita (center) with SSA Cañon City alumnae gathered at the 8th Annual Abbey School & St. Scholastica Alumni Weekend at the Abbey Events Complex on August 17th.

Cañon City 2019 Reunion

Now in its 8th year, The Abbey Events Complex once again hosted a fantastic combined reunion for the Abbey School and St. Scholastica Academy Cañon City alumni on the third weekend of August. Sister Benita Coffey, OSB happily made the trip to join in the festivities and thoroughly enjoyed the renewed connections with former teachers and students. Sister Benita also shared a few words of gratitude and support to all in attendance at the dinner event. The founding of SSA 130 years ago continues to foster relationships with our alumnae who attended our academy in Colorado.

In Memoriam

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

Luella Schoeneberger Smith (1939)
Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, OSB (1942), aunt of Jean Hillenbrand Levine (1979)
Rosemary Heckenbach Thiel (1947), mother of Susan Thiel (1977), Jeanne Littau (1983), Judith Tompkins (1984), and Jo Ellen Thiel (1989)
Joan Barrett Kelly (1952), sister of Mary Gay Barrett Stone (1948)
Arthur A. Malinowski (deceased 11/2/2018*), husband of Theresa Ecmovich Malinowski (1952)
Rosemary Meenan Droze (1954), sister of Joan Meenan Murphy (1955)
Marjorie Heintz Feld (1954), Elizabeth Heintz (1958)
Bartley McKee, brother of Dawn McKee Wyman (1954)
Judith Wolfgram Matz (1955), sister of Sister Marilyn Wolfgram, OSB (1951) mother of Susan Matz Rizzato (1982) and Anne Matz (1985)
Nan Raleigh O'Hare (1955)
Mary Agnes "Aggie" Ruh Madden (1957), sister of Kathleen Ruh Peterson (1960)
Colette Bennett, mother of Bonnie Bennett Lennon (1961) and Joanne Bennett (1970)
Mary Eileen McWayne Jordan (1961) (deceased 4/18/2019*), sister of Betty McWayne Johnson (1967)

Sheila Schuett Smith (1962), twin sister of Sheryl Schuett Murray (1962) and sister of deceased Sandra Schuett Cirone (1959)
Patricia Kane Schiro (1963), sister of Peggy Kane Fink (1974)
LeAnne Schreiber (1963)
Philip Vella, brother of Dorothy Vella Heller (1963)
Nadine Stanton Zei (1963)
Janet Reid Fleming (1967), sister of Teri Reid Kierbel (1970) and mother of Siobhan Fleming (2000)
Barbara E. Connolly (1968), sister of deceased Marianne Connolly (1966), Carol Connolly (1970), and Kathleen Connolly-Gale (1972)
Robert C. Schulien, brother of Mary Beth Schulien (1970) and Cathleen Cermak (1978)
Paula Hosman Hazard (1971)
Mary Catherine Mulligan, mother of Sheila Drevyanko (1971), Colleen Mulligan (1973), Siobhan White (1974), Catherine Mulligan (1976) and Megan Mulligan (1978)
Helen Kraus (1972), sister of Elizabeth Kraus Russell (1970)
Margaret Keenan, mother of Mary Ellen Keenan (1978)
Nereida Maso, mother of Marta Maso (1978) and Maria Maso Mroz (1978)
Kacea Logan-Harris (1979)

Ernestine Beaird, mother of Letitia Beaird Carter (1981) and Aretha Beaird (1983)
Mary M. Neary, mother of Kelly Anne Neary Hinds (1983)
Charlotte Ann Ortiz, mother of Sara Ortiz Sanders (1987) and Anita Ortiz Maddali (1996)
Carol M. Christensen, mother of Denise Christensen (1988), Carla Christensen (1991) and Renee Christensen (1993)
Farzana Gailani (1989) (deceased 10/10/2011*)
Kristie Lynn Brice Schneider (1989) (deceased 6/30/2018 *)
Sarah "Sally" Anne Skemp (deceased 1/27/2017*), mother of Kerry Skemp (1989)
Anthony Hernandez-Caballero, brother of Edna Hernandez (2006)

St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

Audrey Jackson Brown (1953)
Loretta Sramek Boyarski (1956)
Rebecca Key (1974)

The above represents notices received June 1, 2019-November 8, 2019.

**denotes that death was prior to June 1, 2019, but we received notice of their death in the last five months.*



Spiritual Direction: "Holy Listening"

by Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

In the gospel story of Martha and Mary, Jesus says: "There is need for only one thing..." (Luke 10:42) For years this was interpreted to laud the contemplative over the active life. More recently commentators give this a different slant- that each of us receives a unique call. Mary's call was not Martha's and vice versa. Right now, this call to come to Africa for a year is mine.

I am in the mountains and deserts of Namibia living with an international community of Benedictine Missionaries originating from Tutzing, Germany. They are missioned all over the world with large numbers in the Philippines, South Korea, Brazil, and here in Africa. With 10 Sisters in temporary profession, 4 novices, 5 postulants, and 2 aspirants I have come to do spiritual direction with these women in formation in Namibia.

This half a world away call first came immediately after my last term as Prioress. During my time as Prioress, I was privileged to be one of the U.S. symposium representatives and served as the President of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses and as an official delegate to the international Benedictine women's organization called CIB (Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum). Through these opportunities I came to know many remarkable Benedictines from all over the world. In 2015 I received an invitation to come to Namibia from Sister Lumen, whom I had met in Rome during a CIB delegation. At first, I declined the invitation for I had plans to complete a two-year program in Spiritual Guidance at Siena Center in Racine, Wisconsin following my terms as Prioress. However, in January of 2018, Sister Lumen wrote again, from Rome, asking when in 2019 I might be able to come to Namibia. After eight months of deliberation I accepted and after another year my work permit and travel documents were secured for my year in Namibia.

For many years, I felt called to do spiritual direction, guidance or companioning. That call persisted through my work in homelessness, and most recently with immigration as well as my responsibilities to my own Benedictine Community. Succeeding my terms as Prioress was the right time to pursue this call. I practiced what I had learned from the Siena Center with five "seekers" for over a year at St. Scholastica Monastery. The call to come to Africa to continue this practice of spiritual direction following this first year with seekers prepared me well for my year in Namibia.

I am aware that this practice of "holy listening" to another comes somewhat naturally to me. In fact, the first word of the Rule of Benedict is "Listen". Since I was 19 years old I have tried to listen in community, with my students at St. Scholastica Academy, with the people of the Howard Area Community Center, with the women served by Deborah's Place, with other homeless service providers, with my own Sisters, especially when I was their Prioress, and more recently with immigrant detainees at the Kenosha County Detention Center as well as with the ISP (Ignatian Spirituality Program) retreatants. This listening is especially important with the young women of Bethany House of Hospitality. I have experienced good listening to my own life's journey over the years by several superb spiritual directors and I am grateful!

When I was visiting family last Christmas, someone asked me about this prospect of my coming here to Namibia to do spiritual direction. In the course of our conversation, the question came- "What exactly is spirituality?" Good question, I thought. Faced with such a bold question, I had to stop to ponder. Spirituality, for me, is an awareness of self, of others, of the world, of the universe in relation to the Divine. It is also an awakening of self as unique and special and loved and as interconnected with all that is.

And finally, spirituality is a sense of being concerned with the human spirit as primary and as life-giving. We are all on a journey, a spiritual journey, from the moment of our birth. We each seek meaning in this world. We each seek God in our own unique way.

A spiritual director is one who offers another some sacred space on a regular basis, space in which we can clarify our life experience and honor the sacred mystery within ourselves and in our world. Within that space, we can hear the Spirit within our own depths as we reverently listen to one another and to ourselves.

As I write this, I have met twice with various groups of junior Sisters (those in temporary vows) and with the novices and one postulant to talk about what spiritual direction means to me and to invite them to consider participating with me over the next several months.

Life here moves rather slowly and I, who seemed to have been always busy back home, am adjusting to this pace. Silence is an integral part of daily life and, I, for one, love that. At the beginning of November, I began meeting individually with thirteen of these young women. Their eyes, most of them, told me that they were eager to begin, as I was! Formation here takes many years. Some have already been here for some eleven years and are now eager to make their final profession. Others, who are newer, are wondering if monastic life is really for them.

My pace of life picked up in November as I met 26 times in individual sessions as well as leading several team meetings. December saw the arrival and installation of a new prioress, Mother Simon from South Korea, more individual meetings, an opportunity to share thoughts on spiritual direction with some of the senior Sisters, and a little vacation to a Benedictine house in Swakomund, which is on the coast of Namibia near a harbor and between the two major Namibian deserts. Then, a new year begins with a whole new schedule as new aspirants arrive and others move on to the next level of formation.

I find my days with this community to be both structured and full of good energy. Sometimes surprises arise, as when I first heard the drums and tambourines at our liturgy with the lyrics being in some of the major Namibian languages, one of which is English. I love these liturgies. We chant psalms at the Liturgy of the Hours four times a day, most days, and celebrate the Eucharist every day. On Sunday, many people join us and the postulants and senior novices teach and feed the numerous little children before or after our liturgy.

My prayer, as I begin this year here in Namibia, is that these young Benedictine women may find some benefit in our times together. I myself have grown immensely over the years. I hope they will grow and that, you will too. When I return to Chicago in the fall of 2020, I will be open to accepting new "seekers" as I prepare to practice spiritual direction at home once again.



Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB with Mother Mary Thomas Prado, OSB Prioress for the past 5 years.



An African dance at the Offertory during retreat.



*Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB with one of the "junior" Sisters for spiritual direction (above).
The center of the Priory buildings modeled on a Namibian village (below).*



Join us for these upcoming events

Feast of St. Scholastica Mass

Monday, February 10, 2020

5:00 p.m.

To attend, contact:

Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, 773.764.2413 x230

The Art of Pausing:

Reclaiming the Sense of Balance in Our Lives

A presentation by Judy Valente

Sunday, February 23, 2020

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

Open to the public.

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

Young Women and the Word

Young women (18-50) are invited to an evening of Lectio Divina.

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, free

To learn more, contact:

Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 773.338.7063

Discernment Retreat-"Listen"

Friday, May 1-Sunday, May 3, 2020

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

To learn more, contact:

Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 773.338.7063

Lenten Taize Prayer

Led by Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB

Friday, March 6, 2020 7:30- 9 p.m.

St. Scholastica Chapel

For more info or to register, contact:

Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB, 773.764.2413 x374

"The True Cost-Stories of Human Trafficking"

Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking bring Still Point Theatre to perform in March 2020

For more info, visit our website:

www.osbchicago.org/programs or
contact: Sister Benita Coffey, OSB
773.764.2413 x327

World Labyrinth Day

Led by Oblate Dan Raven and

Sister Mary Melady, OSB

Saturday May 2, 2020 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

**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 1, 2019 through November 8, 2019

Memorials

In memory of Paul Barber
Susan Quaintance, OSB
Judith Zonsius, OSB
In memory of Jacob H. Bass
Coach James Sullivan
In memory of Ernestine Beaird
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Colette Bennett
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Toni Bradt
Harold and Audrey Tellefsen
In memory of Mary Louise Brod
Judy and Larry Brod
In memory of Audrey Jackson Brown
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Ed and Alice Skerjanec
In memory of Rory Jerome Burke
Hilary Halpin, OSB
In memory of Carol Barrett Butler
Richard Butler
In memory of Carol M. Christensen
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Denise Christensen
Friends and Co-Workers of Renee Christensen
Sonia Rodenas
John B. Slater
Jerri Wilkerson
In memory of Sarah "Bibi" Clarke
Cynthia and Joseph Cook
Edith and Shari Himelbloom
Jane and George Neuhaus
Nicolas Semenoff
In memory of Barbara Eileen Connolly
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Bonnie M. Conroyd
Hilary Halpin, OSB
Mary Frances Schermerhorn, OSB
In memory of Francesco Cosentino
Joanne Spata
In memory of Mary Theresa Coyne
The Edward and Gertrude Gordon family
In memory of Molly Kathleen Creely
Susan Quaintance, OSB
Judith Zonsius, OSB
In memory of Richard J. Cullen
Margaret Cullen
In memory of Betty Curatolo
Dominic and Margaret Caminiti

In memory of Nicholas T. Dalaly
Joanne Spata
In memory of Barbara Cassidy De Smet
Harry E. De Smet
In memory of Theresa Diaz
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Patricia Dowey
Patricia Reding
In memory of Susan Drogas
Patricia Hartmann
In memory of Rosemary Meenan Droze
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Marion E. Eckel
Mary C. Eckel
In memory of deceased members of the Ehrmann family
Virginia Koerber
In memory of Martha Esperanza
Mary and J. Trinidad Sanchez family
In memory of Katherine Evert
Mary Frances Schermerhorn, OSB
In memory of Norma Farina
Dominic and Margaret Caminiti
In memory of Marjorie Heintz Feld
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Norbert Fleischmann
Helen M. Slattery
In memory of Janet Reid Fleming
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Farzana Gailani
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Mercedes Rodriguez Garcia
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Katherine Gersick
Margaret Cullen
In memory of Martin Gersick
Margaret Cullen
In memory of Kathy Geroski
Jill Newberger
In memory of Martha Gielow
Dominic and Margaret Caminiti
In memory of Retta Glavin
Patricia Crowley, OSB
In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB
Suzanne Walsh
In memory of the nephew of Michael Gosch, CSV
Patricia Crowley, OSB
In memory of Denny Gramins
Dorothy Andries
In memory of Fran Harwas

Dolores Harwas
In memory of Sister Joan Hentges, OSB
Bill and Mary Jo Brewer
In memory of Anthony Hernandez-Caballero
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, OSB
Judith Alexander
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Nancy Bryers
Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill
Andrea Ciccone
Marion and Joseph Goetz
Mary Ann Harrington
Patricia and Richard Hillenbrand
Patricia Heineman-Vernon
Louise Setzler Jewett
Marcy Kim
Dennis LaLiberty
Jackie LeSanche
Jean Lorenz
Laurie Lorig
Marlene Mitchel
Siobhan O'Neill Meluso and
Edgar Andres Meluso Duarte
Brian and Wanda Pabich
Jean Hellman Ryan
Helen Sieben
Jeanine and Dean Silas
Joanne Spata
Mariette and James Vandendorpe
Gene and Kathie Vix
In memory of John A. Hillenbrand, Jr.
Marion and Joseph Goetz
In memory of Toni Hillenbrand
Marion and Joseph Goetz
In memory of Peggy Hogan
Michael J. Hogan
In memory of Paula Hosman Hazard
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
James Moroney
In memory of Mary McWayne Jordan
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Marshall Kearney, IV
Mary Noonan
In memory of Margaret Keenan
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of Joan Barrett Kelly
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
In memory of James Klaiber
Jeanne Klaiber

Prayer Ministry-June 1, 2019 - November 8, 2019

[In memory of George Kodidek](#)
Mardo and John Petrovich
[In memory of Andrew Koltun](#)
Dominic and Margaret Caminiti
[In memory of Helen Kraus](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Brian Langevin](#)
John and Joan Delisi
[In memory of Kacea Logan-Harris](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Mary Agnes "Aggie" Ruh Madden](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Kathleen Ruh Peterson
[In memory of Arthur A. Malinowski](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Theresa Malinowski and family
[In memory of David J. Manning](#)
Carol Thompson
[In memory of William Markham](#)
William Ivantic
[In memory of Nereida Maso](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Marta Maso
[In memory of Greg Matz, M.D.](#)
Carol and Urban von Wahlde
[In memory of Judith Wolfram Matz](#)
Judith Alexander
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Carol Bier-Laning
Judith Borchers
Christine Brennan
Jean Broday
Joanne and Tom Carlson
Maureen Casey
John Ciprian
Margaret Feit Clarke
John and Mary Coyle
Barbara and John Donnelly
Renata Dooley
Mary Hayes
Patricia Heidkamp
Elizabeth Holzhauer
Sarah and Peter Hoskow
A. J. Hotaling, M.D.
Laura Kashul
John and Mary Jean Knox
Kurt Knox
Roger M. Leed
Jackie LeSanche
Loyola University Medical Center, ENT
Department
Ammi Ludwick
Donna Magnuson
Carol and James McDonald
Patrick Meehan and Julie O'Connor

Marlene Mitchel
MORC Tuesday Track Club
Aaron Franzel, Joseph Vogel, Thomas Collier, and Andrea Rees
Mary Lou and David Murphy
Paul and Jane Olson
Robert and Debra Pasteris
Mary Ellen Primeau
Judy Prista and Mark Geraci
Cynthia Pullin
Mary and Wallace Rappe
Diane and Daniel Riesen
Ross Family
The Sealark Captain and Crew
Clark Pellett
Mary Sotir
Joanne Spata
James A. Stankiewicz, M.D.
Rita and John Troccoli
Carol and Urban Von Wahlde
Wayne and Peg Wagner
Lee and Lisa Warren
Jean and James Welter
Ellen and William Wirth
Valerie Wolfram
Michael and Mary Zonsius
[In memory of Kathleen McCahill](#)
Eileen Moorman
[In memory of Maryann McCloskey](#)
Bill and Ellen Wirth
[In memory of Charles McErlean](#)
Eileen Moorman
[In memory of Eugene McGuire](#)
Scott and Amy Gilbert
[In memory of Bartley McKee](#)
Dorothy Andries
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McKenney](#)
Patricia Martin
[In memory of Robert S. McVeigh](#)
The Smith Family
[In memory of Carole Meyer](#)
Patricia Hartmann
[In memory of Sister Mary Joyce Meyers, OSB](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Dr. George Miks](#)
Charlene Merlock Neuses
[In memory of Vivian Morrissey](#)
Mary Morrissey
[In memory of Mary Catherine Mulligan](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Mary M. Neary](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Vanessa Newell](#)

Eileen Moorman
[In memory of Nan Raleigh O'Hare](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Terese Terry
[In memory of Charlotte Ann Ortiz](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Sister Benita Coffey, OSB
[In memory of William Parrillo](#)
Patricia Cielinski, OSB
[In memory of Marc A. Perse](#)
Margaret Cullen
[In memory of Sister Teresita Pustaver, OSB](#)
Gertrude Miholic
[In memory of George Radacy](#)
Susan Ernst
[In memory of Elsie Radtke](#)
Siobhan O'Neill Meluso and
Edgar Andres Meluso Duarte
Judith Zonsius, OSB
[In memory of Ignatz and Gertrude Repp](#)
Gertrude Miholic
[In memory of Janet D. Rhodes](#)
Joseph Rhodes
[In memory of Sharon Rodie](#)
Susan Ernst
[In memory of Carmilla and Marie Sabia](#)
Florence Sabia
[In memory of Theresa Schaefer](#)
Audrey and Harold Tellefsen
[In memory of Patricia Kane Schiro](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Valerie and Robert Stockmar
[In memory of Carol Schleeper](#)
Judith Borchers
[In memory of Kristie Lynn Brice Schneider](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Angela Tercek Schroeder](#)
JoAnn Cepen
Marilyn Tercek
Zabukovec sisters and families
[In memory of Robert C. Schulien](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Constantin Semenov](#)
Nicolas Semenov
[In memory of Sister Mary Alice Setnicar, OSB](#)

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

Prayer Ministry-June 1, 2019 - November 8, 2019

Gertrude Miholic

In memory of Millie Shaddock

Patricia Hartmann

In memory of Joseph Sharp

Sister Ann Sharp, OSB

In memory of Luella Schoeneberger Smith

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Philip Smith

In memory of Sheila Schuett Smith

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Kathleen Kirschen Janessa

Bonnie White

In memory of Sarah "Sally" Anne Skemp

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of John Sullivan

Coach James Sullivan

In memory of Rosemary Thiel

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Clara and John Littau

Jo Ellen Thiel

In memory of Joan M. Thiry

Pat Urbanus and Joseph Dunne

In memory of Mary Timmins

Elizabeth Timmins

In memory of William Timmins

Elizabeth Timmins

In memory of Angeline Tufano

Joanne Spata

In memory of Bertha Utter

Helen M. Slattery

In memory of Barbara Gilliland Valaika

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Cynthia Van Zandt

LuAnne Feik and Annie Jay

In memory of Philip Vella

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Bob and Val Stockmar

In memory of deceased members of the
Wren and Sullivan Families

John L. Wren

In memory of Nadine Stanton Zei

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Sister Suzanne Zuercher,
OSB

Bob and Val Stockmar

Teresa Brown

In honor of Mary L. Byrne on her
birthday

Mary Needham

In honor of the class of 1967
celebrating 70

Linda and Sam Salchenberger, Rita Killeen
and Kelly O'Connell

In honor of my 50th Reunion

Denise Donofrio

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on
her birthday

Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill

Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon

In honor of Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB on
her 80th birthday

Michael J. Hogan

In honor of Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB

Sharon Wang

In honor of Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand,
OSB on her 75th Jubilee

Barbara and John Niesel

In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on
her 106th birthday

Robert and Mary Bzik

Walter Ivantic

Eileen and Larry Klonowski and family

Bob and Rose Kneesel

Keith and Mary Beth Self

In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on
her 85th Jubilee

Margaret Heaphy

Kathleen and William Riordan

In honor of my first teachers at Queen of
All Saints in 1947

James Kenny

In honor of my first teachers at Queen of
All Saints in 1949 and first teachers at
St. Scholastica in 1953

Mary Jane Nelsen Kenny

In honor of Sister Mary Melady, OSB

Kathleen and Robert Murray

In honor and thanksgiving for Jeanine
Silas and her generous service

Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB

"...in memory of her."

Judith Wolfgram Matz (1937-2019)



Pictured at the 25th Annual Testimonial Dinner in June, left to right: Judy Matz, Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB, Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB and Susan Matz Rizzato.

Born in Akron, Ohio to Margaret and Edwin Wolfgram, Judy grew up in Skokie, IL, with her older siblings Richard and Marilyn. Her mother taught with the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago at both St. Hilary's and St. Lambert's and her father was an engineer. Judy attended St. Scholastica High School and graduated in 1955, while her sister, Marilyn, graduated in 1951 and entered the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago community in 1952. And so, a lifelong relationship with the Wolfgram and Matz families began.

Judy married Greg Matz in 1963 and had four children: Susan '82, Paul, Anne '85, and Greg. Anne returned to SSA as a faculty member and served as principal from 2003-2009. Anne is now an Oblate of the community.

A generous supporter of St. Scholastica Academy and the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Judy will be remembered for her enviable faith, love of family, hospitality, and stewardship of gifts.

She passed away on November 5, 2019. To read more about Judy Matz's life, please visit: <https://www.michalikfuneralhome.com/obituary/judith-matz>

Special Occasions

In honor of the living and deceased
members of the Class of 1948

Jean Merkle Simms

In honor of Michael Androski on his 95th
birthday

Marilyn Borucki

In honor of Pat Bulla on her 75th birthday



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 we begin this new year, my sixth year as Director of Development and my tenth year, if you count my time here as a student, I am even more aware that each day is not only unique, but a wonderful gift from God. I have also come to realize that it is how we utilize God's gifts that really matters.

I have learned this from the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, not only in their words, but especially in their deeds. The Sisters' work is incredibly relevant and vital, now more than ever. These dedicated women may have physically slowed down a smidge, but they have certainly not missed a beat. They are actively committed to issues of justice, peace, and climate change. They continue as gifted educators and counselors to those who seek their insight. They are accomplished administrators, authors and pastoral associates. Even today, as in years past, no one works harder or cares more about those with whom they come in contact, than our Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. They know no other way; as they are, as they have always been, Benedictine women, called to seek God in prayer and community, serving where there is need.

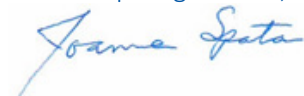
Every time I interact with you, our cherished friends and supporters, I find you too have indeed used your God given gifts well. You are vested in our mission and are truly partners in our ministry. You have accomplished great things in your life and you have generously shared your experience, time, talent and treasure in an effort to assist the Benedictine Sisters and to make the world a better place. Whether you are an oblate, a member of a committee, a donor or a guest at one of our many events, please know that through your friendship and support, you continue to have a major impact on the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago's lives. The Sisters and I are most grateful that together with you, we serve the people of God, in the spirit of the Gospel.

We are especially thankful this year, for your warm response to our "Sharing in Their Care" Appeal. Through your support, you are helping us to continue to care for our infirm Sisters, here at their home where they are most comfortable and familiar, in our St. Joseph Court Infirmary at the St. Scholastica Monastery. It is a blessing for both our Sisters who reside in the infirmary and our Sisters who are able to share with them our day to day life in the monastery. Thank you for making this possible.

We are also grateful to the members of our Benedictine Legacy Society and their families. We are honored to be remembered in your final testament to your life's work, values and beliefs. It is through your selfless act of naming us in your Will, Bequest or Memorial, that you are not only testifying as to what is important to you during your lifetime, but you are also making an investment in our future.

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

With deepest gratitude,



Joanne Spata, Director of Development



Save the Date!

26th Annual Testimonial Dinner and Awards

Wednesday, June 10, 2020
Park Ridge Country Club



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Annual Stewardship Report *Fiscal Year 2018-2019*



Message from the Prioress



Dear Friends,

We continue to be very grateful for your generous support as we keep our monastery in working order, even as more of us transition to retirement and a life of prayer ministry. It is our continued work throughout Chicago, Colorado and even Namibia this year, that extends our Benedictine Spirituality to where there is need.

We thank our Oblates, both in Chicago and in Colorado, as they continue growing in number and spirit. While sharing and living Benedictine values, they are an ongoing support for our community life and our works of peace and justice.

We are grateful to friends and acquaintances who support our Testimonial Dinner and respond to our appeals for support of ongoing needs. We appreciate the many of you who connect us with matching gifts programs, donor advised funds and alternative gifting suggestions, in varied ways. We are also thankful for the foresight of our Legacy Society and Memorial Benefactors; receiving substantial bequests from alumnae and friends who value their benefits from our works and who wish to continue to support our way of life.

We appreciate the help we receive from a number of foundations: SOAR helps fund the respectful quality of life for our Sisters in St. Joseph Court. The Bernard Heerey Foundation values and supports our commitment to enabling our Sisters to continue to age in place by supporting care for our special health needs. The Brach Foundation grant supports on-going education and collaborative meetings with various resources to keep our processes and practices up to date. And The National Religious Retirement Office continues to consult with us on future planning.

We are pleased to share our Annual Report here, and to express our gratitude for all the ways you support our life in our religious community and our works in church and the world.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Murphy, OSB". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prioress, Sister Judith Murphy, OSB

List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

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, 2018 to June 30, 2019. 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
Howard Dubin, Howard and Ursula Dubin Foundation
National Religious Retirement Office
Polk Bros. Foundation
SOAR! Sister Kathleen Lunsman, IHM

Businesses

Bredemann Toyota in Park Ridge
C & C Power, Inc.
Chicago White Sox
Fabry, Inc.
Fannie May Candies
Fortune Restoration
Gracias Fair Trade
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TDubs Sneaker Shop
Uncommon Ground
Urhausen Green Houses

Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

Estates

Corinne Habel
Emily Hartman
Joanne Hopkinson
Geraldine A. Spatz
Elsie Stupar

Organizational Donors

Bonaventure House Inc.
Christ Episcopal Church
Clerics of St. Viator
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
Ignatian Spirituality Project
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Old St. Pat's Women's Spirituality Group
(Chicago North)
Queen of All Saints Basilica
Rogers Park C.P.O.
Solidarity Bridge
St. Jerome Parish
St. Michael Church
St. Nicholas Parish
Tom Killoran Photography
Unity on the North Shore
University of Detroit Mercy

Individual Donors

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Seth J. Alexander
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Kathleen and Robert Anderson
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Dorothy Andries
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Lisa Alberici April
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Joanne Bookstein
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Marilyn Borucki
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Carol Ann Bowler
Maureen Boychuck
Suzanne and William Braasch
Jusolyn Murray Bradshaw
Anne Brady
Kathleen Brady
Mary Ellen Brady
Mary Clare Brady
Noreen Brady
Thomas and Catherine Brady
John Brady family
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Gail A. Brandt
Sheila Brannen
Lillian Braunstein
Sally Noonan Bredemann
George and Tracy Breen
Sandhya Breen
JoAnn Brennan
Kathie Brenner
Mary Jo and Bill Brewer
Timothy and Marian Briggs

Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

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Catherine Chouinard-Hasmonek
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Julie Chyna
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Mary and Charles Cipolla
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Francine Clark
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John J. and Patricia Coffey
Peter J. Coffey and Molly Cavanaugh
Thomas and Sharon Coffey
Maureen and Kevin Cogan
Edward and Josephine Colbach
Suzanne Stepan Coleman
Virginia Collings
Mary Ann DeSloover Collins
Maureen Collins
Robert and Mary Pat Collins
Maureen Nolan Comeaux-Seleski
Carol Connolly
Larry and Judi Connolly
Patricia Connolly
Bill and Natalie Conrardy
Marilyn Considine
John K. and Nicolette Conway
Marjorie Keating Conway
Bridget Copeland
Robert and Elizabeth Cornella
Marilyn Huck Cotteleer
Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin
Denise Coughlin and Ralph Levy
Patricia Cowhey and George Courtney
James and Geraldine Coyne
Lawrence and Kathleen Cramm
Gael Crane
Frances Crean, RSM
Marie Crean
Donald H. and Karen L. Cronauer
Brigid Cronin & Marty McDermott
Marilyn Crow
Alice F. Crowley
Jeanne Crowley
Jerome and Carol Crowley, Jr.
Joseph P. and Patricia K. Crowley
Mary Crowley

Tom V. Crowley
Judith and Tom Culcasi
Barbara Cullen
Margaret Cullen
Ann Cummins-Bogan
Mary Clare Cuniff
Peggy and Ken Cuniff
Peggy Cuniff
Edward and Barbara Cunningham
Mary M. Cunningham
Mary Alice Cuny
Marguerite Cusick
Phyllis Stroka Cypcar
Carol Czapar
Mary and Joseph Czuba
Paula Cook Dale
Peggy Daleiden
Martha Heffernan Daly
Dennis and Daryl D'Amato
Mary Danahy
Ralph Dangelmaier
Kathleen Daniel
Kathleen Kilday Daniels
Mary Rohrer Danner
Marian Weaver Darling
Kathryn Carlyle Davidson
Cynthia Davis
Jeanne Davis
Charmaine De Castro
Harry De Smet
Rebecca A Dean
Mary Kay Deany
Kathleen DeCarlo
Christopher Deger
Donna Dehnert
Marguerite Delacoma
Genevieve Delana
John and Joan Delisi
Pat A. DeMars
Debra and Michael Dennis
Nancy and Ralph Deptolla
Mary E. Desmond
Colleen DesRosiers
Suzanne and Leo Devarenne
Maria Diaz
Leslie and D. E. Dickerson
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Annette Dluger
Therese Dokman
Jean Dolan
Mary Dolan
Catherine Donlin
Mary Dockendorf Donner
Denise Donofrio



Thank you for partnering with us in ministry

Vincent and Susanne Donoghue
Nancy Donoval
Emily Dorner
Erin and Matthew Doubleday
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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.

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Your Gifts Support our Elder Sisters

The St. Joseph Court Infirmiry Sisters enjoy their weekly music therapy class. Every few months they perform what they've learned or created including original works: "Thank You For This Day."

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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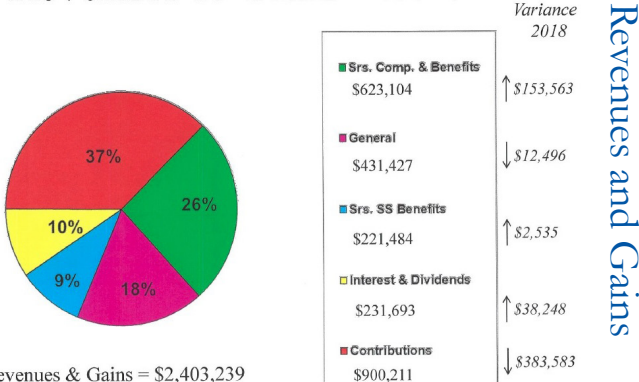
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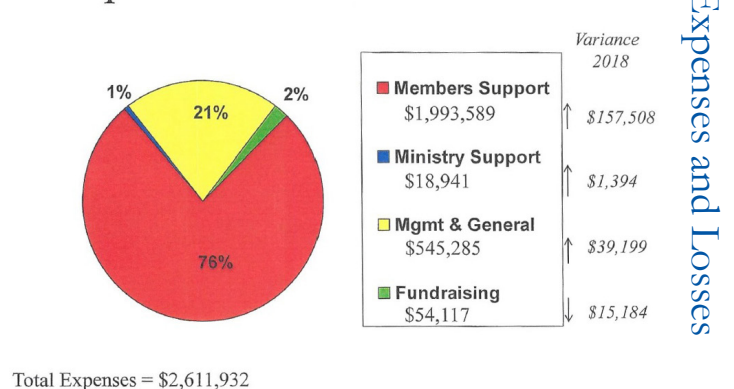
Revenues & Gains – 2019



Total Revenues & Gains = \$2,403,239

(Graph does not include loss on the sale of equipment of \$9,081 or property damage insurance reimbursement of \$4,041.)

Expenses and Losses – 2019



Total Expenses = \$2,611,932



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The following benefactors remembered the Benedictine Sisters in their wills or trusts for which bequests or gifts were made during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

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