



Sacro Speco Sacred Space

Vol. XXV, No. 1

Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Winter 2015

A Spirituality for the New Year

*By Sister Mary Melady, O.S.B.
Sister Mary ministers as a Spiritual
Director and serves as Board Chair
of the Holy Spirit Learning Center.*

The time around Christmas and New Year's Day offers many opportunities for celebrations with family and friends. It also offers a wonderful opportunity for reflection on the year that is coming to an end and anticipation of the new year to come.

The month of January is named after the Roman god, Janus. Janus, a mythological god, was usually portrayed with two faces looking in opposite directions, one looking behind and the other looking forward. The name of Janus was derived from the Latin word *janua* which means "a door." A door, after all, is a threshold for leaving one place and entering another. The symbolism of the word, January, then invites us to "look both ways before crossing" as we anticipate the beginning of a New Year.

The media at this time of the year constantly review the newsworthy world and cultural events of the year that's ending. Watching the television news flashbacks I often find myself saying, "Oh, I forgot about that." or "Yes, that was wonderful!"

In a similar vein, I have a personal end of year review tradition that I find very helpful. For several years I have used a yearly planner which contains a month by month calendar. I keep tabs on appointments, meetings, social

engagements, birthdays, and other celebrations by writing them down in my planner. During the week after Christmas, I schedule a block of time for my own end of the year review. I take out my planner and slowly and prayerfully go back over each month reflecting on the ups and downs, the ordinary and the special events, the challenges,

**"Reflecting on what has
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practices."**

lessons learned, and tasks completed. Sometimes I find myself saying once again, "Oh, I forgot about that" or "Yes, that was wonderful!"

As I peruse each month's events, I try to discern God's presence in those concrete experiences of my life. What did I learn, what was being asked of me, what were the graces given to me in those events?

One of the books I use frequently is *Praying Our Experiences* by Joseph Schmidt, FSC. Brother Joseph affirms the value of reflecting and praying over our experiences. He reminds us: "Nothing is more a gift from the Totally Other than our creation, our life and our continued existence in God's love.

As a gift, our life unfolds under God's loving care. God continually sustains us, graces us, and calls us. Each of our days is a gift and a call from the Creator. To reflect on our experiences, then, is to unwrap the gift, to listen to the call...this reflection can be a way of hearing God's word addressed to us as individuals in the uniqueness of our person. It can be a way of taking seriously our faith in God's providence and our belief that all is grace." (pp 37-38)

Praying my experiences during this end of year review has become an important spiritual practice for me. As I review the events of each month I "unwrap" the gift of how God has journeyed with me all year long.

Looking ahead to the New Year many people articulate their personal goals and plans in the form of New

Continued on page 3



Dave Price

Sister Mary Melady, OSB



Message from the Prioress



Sister Patricia Crowley, Prioress, (right) stands with Sister Lynn McKenzie (left), President of the Federation of St. Scholastica, in the cave at Subiaco.

Dear Friends,

Since our last issue of *Sacro Speco*, which you received in mid-summer, I have had the privilege to visit the original “sacro speco” – the cave where Benedict spent his first years as a hermit. That cave is now within a monastery church just outside of Subiaco, Italy. Down the road is the very oldest monastery begun by Benedict himself over 15 centuries ago. It is called St. Scholastica Monastery and houses a small community of monks. With the delegates and participants of the CIB (Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum) symposium in Rome (September 9 – 17, 2014), I renewed my monastic vows in the church just above the cave where our founder spent three years of his life. Around me were Benedictine women from all over the world doing the same, each in her own language. This was a sacred moment in a very special “sacred place”. To the left you will find a photo taken in that “sacro speco”.

This issue of *Sacro Speco* celebrates the alumnae reunion, the work of our Sisters, the journey of an Oblate, and so many more moments of “sacred space.” As the new year begins, we are delighted to wish you a year of sacred space and special moments.

In peace,

Patricia Crowley OSB

Patricia Crowley, OSB



Letters From You

REMEMBERING SCHOOL AND SPIRIT

All of you are never far from my thoughts or prayers. My St. Scholastica experience will always be at the top of my list of positive and unforgettable memories. The friendships that were born there still exist and are still strong and valid and supportive and uplifting. There was a saying in my freshman yearbook- that I have never forgotten- and has carried me through good times and bad...for all these many years; “I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I sought my brother- and found all three.” It’s the essence of St. Scholastica.

-Jerri Jones Oroni (SSA, Chicago, ‘70)

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

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

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

Or email nsotelo@osbchicago.org with the subject line “For *Sacro Speco* Letters.” We will publish letters as space permits.

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. If you need to update your contact info, contact jlesanche@osbchicago.org or 773.764.2413 x371.

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SISTER STORY: Sister Karen Bland, O.S.B.

While many know of the educational ministries of the Benedictines in Colorado and Chicago, the Sisters' work goes far beyond education. Today, four sisters continue to serve the people of Colorado through various ministries across the state. Meet Sister Karen Bland, O.S.B., one of the sisters who currently serves as Director and Chief Development Officer for Grand Valley Catholic Outreach.

With scholarships in hand and plans to attend college, Karen Bland thought she knew what the future held, but God had other plans.

The idea of entering the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago "overwhelmed me," she says, looking back nearly 60 years later. "As difficult as it was, I received the grace to respond affirmatively." After graduating from St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago, she began the process of becoming a sister and professed vows in April of 1956.

"The example of the sisters who taught me and their friendship were probably the most impelling factors," she reflects.

Her response to God's call led her to teach in Colorado, then Chicago, and later to serve as principal from 1970 until 1989 at St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City. For the last 15 years, Sister Karen has served as Executive Director and Chief Development Officer for Grand Valley Catholic Outreach.

Catholic Outreach started over 40

years ago when two Franciscan sisters began offering food to the people who were homeless outside their home. In 1988, four parishes entered into a collaborative agreement to support the effort more formally. Today, the organization thrives with interfaith and civic support; administering food, clothing,

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"reminds us to be aware of
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and housing support to those in need.

Most recently, part of Sister Karen's work has included initiating new construction on 24 apartments in Grand Junction for chronically homeless men and women who live with mental and/or physical disabilities. She tells us that Catholic Outreach currently provides housing in the form of completely furnished homes or apartments for 69 persons at any one time. Through the assistance of case managers, individuals become increasingly self-sufficient and reach a level of stability that enables them to move into their own homes.

While the day to day work is fo-

cused on meeting individual's immediate needs, Sister Karen also works for the goal of ending homelessness. She serves on two committees whose priorities include this aim, including the Governor's Pathway Advisory Committee. She also chairs the Grand Junction Continuum of Care, a coalition of agencies, including the Police Department, that strives to end homelessness in the local area.

It is not easy work, but Sister Karen says she is sustained by daily scripture, the presence of so many men and women who share their time and talent with those in need, the prayers of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, and the examples and contributions of those in the community whom she serves.

She remarks that prayer, especially reflection on the scripture, "reminds us to be aware of whom we truly serve and to put into practice God's daily message."

Courtesy of Sister Karen Bland, O.S.B.



Frankie Byrne (left) welcomes Sister Karen Bland, O.S.B. to her new home at St. Benedict's Place.

A Spirituality...Continued from page 1

Year's resolutions. That may well be a way of inserting something specific into the clean "slate" that a new year offers. In our community we have a different "looking ahead" tradition. On New Year's Eve we gather around a table where we have placed our personal cal-

endars, planners, watches, and clocks - all the things that we frequently use throughout the year to measure time. We pray together a special litany. Then our prioress sprinkles holy water over all of our time pieces and blesses them. This is a simple, yet valuable ritual, because we are symbolically offering all of our time to God and asking for

God's blessing throughout all the days to come.

Reflecting on what has been and anticipating what will come in the year ahead are for me valuable spiritual practices. I highly recommend that you, too, "look both ways before crossing" into 2015.



HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU?

- Do you feel God is calling you to something more in life but you're not sure what it is?
- Did you originally dream about marriage but do you now find yourself wondering if God has other plans for you?
- Do you wonder what direction your life will take?

The Benedictine tradition invites each of us to discern God's call in our lives. Whether you are called to single life, religious life, or married life, God has a plan for you.

If you wonder if God might be calling you to become a Sister, contact Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB (bhemonahan@gmail.com or 773.338.7063). Sister Belinda is the new Vocation Minister, helping women discern God's call in their lives.



Monastery News

Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB, re-opened the British Infant School in September in a new location at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Skokie. Her pre-school serves 22 children who are taught with a Christian-based and holistic model of education.

Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Sister Mary Melady, OSB, Oblate Rick McCallister, and Oblate Chris Johnston participated in the "Nuns on the Bus" tour in September. The tour stopped in Chicago to support voter registration in the fall election.

The Benedictine sisters coordinated a peace vigil outside the Chicago monastery after two young men were shot at a building across the street in early September. The sisters handed out flyers and invited neighbors to join in the vigil that prayed for an end to violence.

Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB spread the word about the Benedictine Sisters and our ministries at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) event titled, "Ministry Showcase" in October. The day helped students learn about the Chicago ministerial community.



Sister Belinda Monahan, O.S.B. represents the community at the Ministry Showcase at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Our community belongs to the Federation of St. Scholastica, a coalition representing 20 Benedictine women's communities in the United States and Mexico. The Federation began in 1922 to support and grow the communities which comprise its membership.

Our monastery was happy to host the Federation Council for its meeting during the weekend of October 3-5th. Eight women religious of the Federation gathered for the first meeting of the newly elected council members, including our very own Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB.



The Federation of St. Scholastica Council met at our monastery. Front row, second from right, is Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB, of our community.

In Loving Memory

Ellyn Patricia McKinney was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 23, 1929, the only child of David and Rosellyn Fisher McKinney. She attended St. Ita's Parish grade school and entered St. Scholastica High School where she met the Benedictine Sisters.

Sensing a call to the monastic way of life, she entered the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in the fall of 1947. She received the name Sister Mary Benet, was invested in the habit, and entered the novitiate on June 24, 1948. She professed first vows on June 26, 1949 and perpetual vows on June 29, 1952.

Sr. Mary Benet began a long career in education by teaching in parochial schools within the Archdiocese of Chicago: Mother of God, St. Hilary, St. George, St. Joseph, Queen of All Saints, and St. Lambert. In 1960 she became principal of St. Joseph School. After completing her term there, she remained resident in the convent for eleven years during a very tumultuous period in that neighborhood.

Her educational preparation began with a Bachelor of Arts degree at DePaul University in Chicago. Later she was awarded a Master's in Education at Chicago's Loyola University and finally, years later, a Doctor of Ministry at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

In 1966, she co-founded the Urban Apostolate of Sisters with Sr. Mary William, D.C. and Father Jack Egan. She accepted a position on the staff of the Catholic School Office in Chicago, as Associate Director of the Administrative Service Department, serving about 350 parishes. Her major role was as consultant to parish school boards.

This administrative experience gave her a rich background as she next ventured into freelance work and eventually became an international speaker and facilitator.

Sr. Mary Benet authored the book *Sharing Wisdom: A Process for Group*

Decision Making, which was followed by the Chicago manual for parish school boards, *Shared Decision Making Revisited*. Her deep belief that everyone has a "piece of the wisdom" will be a key element of her legacy. That style of leadership was evident in her work with her own community and among many other Benedictine communities of women in the North America with whom she served. Later, she co-wrote the book *Changing Pastors: A Resource for Pastoral Transitions* with Fr. Tom Sweetser, SJ.

Elected as the prioress of the community in 1986, she served until 1995 when she returned to the ministry of lecturer, facilitator, and retreat director. She worked with many dioceses and parish councils, boards and staffs, and with priests' senates, and religious communities. In 1981, she received the O'Neil D'Amour Award from the National Assoc. of Boards of Education.

Sr. Mary Benet was, for all of her traveling, deeply rooted in her monastic community and always actively engaged in various committees. During the last phase of her life she continued "to walk with people" as she put it, as spiritual director, and by composing daily scriptural reflections mailed to hundreds, taking roles of Soloist at the Liturgy of the Hours, and giving Sunday reflections.



Sister Mary Benet McKinney, OSB
1929-2014

After suffering a stroke, Sr. Mary Benet lingered a little less than seven weeks before she died on September 2, 2014. She is survived by several cousins. When her parents saw their only child enter the monastery, they welcomed all in her community as "adopted children", and were generous benefactors and loving supporters of the Benedictine Sisters. Having both preceded her in death, they now welcome her in heaven, while the Benedictine Sisters and all her countless friends mourn her loss and celebrate her remarkable life.



A memorial Mass was held November 3rd to remember Sister Mary Benet McKinney, OSB. Some of her former students attended in her honor.

Find Belonging

The Benedictine Oblates in Colorado have grown to 29 members. One of them, Oblate Phyllis King, shares with us how she was led to becoming an Oblate and belonging to this rich faith tradition.

Q: What drew you to become an Oblate?

A: Basically God drew me into the Oblate life as I wrestled with Sr. Joan's request at the parish level and Sr. Benita's encouragement through our correspondence. I was at a point in my life where I needed some undefined "more" in my spiritual life. That Spirit of God said "Here is where you belong."

Q: What do you love about being an Oblate?

A: You ask "What do you love about being an Oblate?" and I answer "What is not to love about being an Oblate?" Here was a balanced approach to prayer, community, discipline, and service which is what I needed. Although I live alone I never feel alone, knowing I am one of a community. The Benedictine Rule offers a way of life that is so simple and yet so profound. I am encouraged to practice more balance in my life, to incorporate more prayer and meditation without sacrificing my daily life of work and play, of family and friends.

Q: Tell us something you have done as an Oblate.

A: Initially I and the other Oblates were a sign to our parish community of an additional way to live out one's faith. The first years were spent being grounded in Benedictine Spirituality. This year we took a corporate stance to work with a

local agency that serves the homeless people in our town. We adopted a unit of a transitional housing facility. That means that we are responsible for providing everything a new family might need, from bedding to food, to hygiene, pots and pans. This has involved the whole Oblate community in Colorado.



Phyllis King, Oblate

Q: What is your favorite line from the Rule of Benedict?

A: I return often to The Twelve Steps of Humility which have become a great guide and a source of comfort and hope. There are also two lines that speak to me: "Place your hope in God alone," and "Finally never lose hope in God's mercy."

Q: What would you say to someone who is thinking about becoming an Oblate?

A: I'd say "Come and journey with us for a while, see if this is the direction God is leading you." We are quite a mixture--old, young, male, female, quiet and loud, prayerful and playful. There is room for all to grow in prayer and happiness.

Join us!

Do you want to deepen your faith?
Are you looking for a community to support you
on the Christian journey?

The Benedictine Oblates invite you to learn more
about becoming a member. Contact:

CHICAGO OR NATIONWIDE:
Sister Benita Coffey
773.764.2413 x327, bcoffey@osbchicago.org

COLORADO:
Sister Joan Hentges
719.250.1309, jmhentges@q.com





Jordan Kardasz '00 announces the fund at the St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago, reunion in November.

SASSY Starts Scholarship Fund for Young Women

Thanks to all who ran in the 2nd Annual SASSY Dash last year. The young alumnae who coordinate the event successfully transferred the proceeds to become a scholarship fund to support girls' education. Any young woman attending a single-gender Catholic high school in the Chicagoland area is eligible. Students may apply for any amount up to \$500. The scholarships are intended to help students with the "extras" needed to support their academic growth and extra-curricular activities. For example, a scholarship might help fund books, a field trip, uniforms, athletic fees, etc.

If you know of a student in need, or an educator who works in an all-girls institution, please share with her the SASSY blog address <http://sassyscholastics.wordpress.com>. Here you will find more information and the scholarship application. If you would like to make an individual donation to the fund, please contact Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB, at 773.764.2413 x343.

In Memoriam

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

Geraldine Streff (1924)
 Margaret Campbell "Peggy" Powers (1941)
 Katherine Ann Neumayer Kelley (1944)
 Malachy O'Gorman, husband of Alice Cunningham O'Gorman (1944)
 Sister Mary Benet McKinney (1947)
 Barbara Kob Ost diek (1948)
 Joan Farrell Tuke (1948)
 Dorothy Tuohy Plunkett Hudash (1949)
 Sister Suzanne Zuercher (1949)
 Lynn Ballard Amos, daughter of Marilyn Izzo Ballard (1952)
 Bonnie Horner Schulte (1952)
 Raymond P. Miller, husband of Arline Mestdagh Beyer Miller (1953)
 Patricia A. Shanley Lambert (1954)
 Daymon D. Muehl, husband of Patricia Chidester Muehl (1955) (deceased January 7, 2013, we received notice July 17, 2014)
 Joan Roseland Haley (1956)
 Joan Hopkins Wallemark (1960)

Jo Ann O'Reilly Swartz (1963)
 Rosemary Grunewald, mother of Kim Grunewald (1966)
 Richard Justice, husband of Patricia Szymczak Justice (1968)
 Janet Grover (1969) (deceased April 16, 2013, we received notice April 2, 2014)
 Tom Story, brother of Mary Ellen Story Healey (1977)
 Brian Irwin, husband of Maureen Robinson (1977)
 Anna Flaherty, mother of Kathleen Flaherty (1979), Peggy Flaherty (1980), Amy Kraus (1983), and Patty Caproni (1986)
 Mary Anne Dunsheath Heidkamp, mother of Mary Regina Heidkamp (1979)
 John Francis McNellis, father of Jane Lennon (2000) and Ann McNellis (2002)

St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

Maxine Sophia Russell Mizell (1948) (deceased October, 2013, we received notice July 23, 2014)
 Florence Berardi, mother of Linda Berardi Kramer (1965) (deceased July 22, 2013, we received notice July 24, 2014)
 Lanelle Ryan (1985)
 Jennifer "Jem" Ouellette (1991) (deceased 5/24/14, we received notice 9/19/14)

(The above listings are based on notices we received since the last newsletter through October 30, 2014)



See the full album of photos at
[f/BenedictineSistersofChicago](https://www.facebook.com/BenedictineSistersofChicago) and look
 under "photos" or use this shortened link:
<http://on.fb.me/1x3RxM3>

ST. SCHOLASTICA ACADEMY, CHICAGO 2014 Reunion Weekend Photos, Nov. 1 & 2

More than 200 alumnae gathered in Chicago for the 2014 Alumnae Reunion Weekend celebrating the classes of '4 and '9. The weekend included a vibrant reception, dinner, and class photos at the Jean Marie Ryan Center on Saturday, followed by the Alumnae Memorial Mass and campus visits on Sunday.





Alumnae of St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City, and The Abbey gathered together in August for the 2014 All-Classes Alumnae Reunion Weekend. They enjoyed reconnecting and reminiscing at the Abbey Events Complex, with a special tour of the Abbey Winery. Photos courtesy of the Abbey Events Complex.

ST. SCHOLASTICA ACADEMY, CAÑON CITY 2014 Reunion Weekend Photos, Aug. 15-17

Save the Date!

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago, will hold a reunion in the fall of 2015 for all graduates whose class year ends in '0 or '5. Save the date cards and invitations will be mailed to those for whom we have contact information. If you know of a classmate who does not receive our mailings, please have them be in touch with us at alumnae@osbchicago.org. As more details become available, they will be posted to the alumnae page of our website at osbchicago.org.

St. Scholastica Academy, Canon City, will hold its next all-class reunion August 14-16, 2015. The class of 1965 will hold a special 50th Reunion event as part of the weekend. Contact Linda DeFellippie Saunders for more info. about the 50th reunion event at saunders615@live.com or 303.304.0194. More details will be posted as they become available at theabbeycc.com.

Save the Date for the 21st Annual Testimonial Dinner Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Plan to attend our annual fundraiser that benefits
the monastery's ministries and sisters as we honor:



The Hallagan Family
Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality Award
A family of alumnae who live Benedictine values

Alicia and Myron Resnick
Spirit of St. Benedict Award
Longtime friends & supporters of the community

Sister Patricia Cielinski, OSB
Spirit of St. Scholastica Award
A Sister with 32 years of Benedictine service

Connect with Your Benedictine Community

All are welcome! Whether you are seeking to deepen your prayer life or searching for a faith community, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago invite you to stay connected!

Join the Facebook Community

Click "Like" on our Facebook page at facebook.com/BenedictineSistersofChicago. Receive daily scripture reflections and stay up to date on news and events at the Monastery!

Enjoy Daily Prayer or Sunday Mass

Join the Sisters for prayer in the morning or evening or come for Sunday mass. For times, see our website at www.osbchicago.org/prayer.htm

Become a Supporter

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

Sign up for our Email List

Register your email at osbchicago.org/email.htm and receive monthly e-newsletters and other special notices about events and programming.

PLANNING YOUR LEGACY



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 PART OF YOUR LEGACY.

We want you to know about an opportunity to continue your legacy of generosity. A bequest is a gift that helps the Benedictine community you care about without costing you anything today. It is free of federal tax. It can be changed down the road. You can still benefit your heirs with specific gifts and it may produce estate tax savings. Would you like to find out more?

Please contact us at 773-764-2413 x233
to discuss this most vital decision.

Spirituality at the Monastery

PASTORAL CARE

The Benedictine Sisters offer spiritual direction and pastoral counseling at the monastery to help you grow closer to God and those around you. Contact one of the sisters below for more information.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Sister Mary Melady, O.S.B.
mmeladyosb@yahoo.com

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Sister Virginia Jung, O.S.B.
773.764.2413 x262

PRAYER

Take time to renew your spirit.
Join us for prayer or Mass.

Morning Prayer, Mon-Sat
7:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer, M-F
5:15 p.m.

Saturday Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Vespers 5:15 p.m.

Please visit osbchicago.org/prayer.htm for alternative times during Lent, Advent, Easter, and Christmas.

Celebrate the Feast of St. Scholastica

Come be inspired!

Join us on February 10th for Mass at 5 p.m. in St. Scholastica Chapel at the monastery.

All are welcome. If you would like to join the Sisters for an evening meal following mass, please RSVP to prioress@osbchicago.org

St. Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict who founded the Benedictine tradition. She helped Benedict understand the importance of relationships and she continues to inspire women of faith to take bold actions in the church and world.



Grace transforms
our failings...
into abundant,
endless comfort.

-Julian of Norwich

Daily Prayer?

We've made it simple!

Don't have a lot of time to pray? Get our daily scripture reflections and weekly prayer quotes, like the one above, on our Facebook page. Make sure to press "like" on the top of the page to see our posts in your daily news feed. Find this and other prayer resources at www.facebook.com/BenedictineSistersofChicago.



You have been remembered in our prayers.

The following represents prayer requests from May 19, 2014 - October 30, 2014

In memory of Lynn Ballard Amos

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Kathy Caudill
Families of Patty Ballard's 1st grade
class at Harper Elementary
Judy Janowiak

In memory of deceased members of the Anderson family

Patricia Campion

In memory of Thomas Aykroid

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Don and Dorothy Andries

In memory of Richard Ault

Gertrude Miholic
Matthew and Dorothy Miholic

In memory of Barbara Bassett-Lee

Sister Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B.
Thomas and Beth Kneesel

In memory of Greg Bauer

Diane Syms

In memory of Florence Berardi

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Tom Bergin

Bud and Betty Chess

In memory of Joseph Beyer

Matthew and Dorothy Miholic

In memory of Chester Blackowicz

Angela Schroeder

In memory of Cecelia Bradford

Kenneth D. Bradford

In memory of Helen and Charles Brandys

Mary Cielinski

In memory of Gloria Brisson

Kathy and Jeff Caudill

In memory of Patrick Burke

Joanne Spata

In memory of Ida M. Busscher

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

In memory of deceased members of the Campion family

Patricia Campion

In memory of Angeline and Michael Cieslinski

Mary Cielinski

In memory of Jery Cielinski

Mary Cielinski

In memory of Rosemary Clifford

Linda Herrmann

In memory of Pat and Patty Crowley

Gary and Mary Ann Kono

In memory of Mary Elizabeth Connolly Crean

Sister Frances Crean, R.S.M.

In memory of Richard J. Cullen

Margaret Cullen

In memory of Alice Cullina

James and Dorothea Jung

In memory of William K. Cunningham

Virginia M. Boss and family

In memory of Jack Desmond

James and Dorothea Jung

Memorials

May 19, 2014 to October 30, 2014

In memory of Anna Diestl

Katharina Milleker

In memory of Elizabeth Dlutowski

Katherine Milleker and family

In memory of Anne Dominick

Kay McSpadden

In memory of Tony and Mary Donofrio

Denise Donofrio

In memory of John Drasler

Matthew and Dorothy Miholic

Rose Rosko

In memory of Marie Ehrmann

Virginia Koerber

In memory of Ray Erjavec

Joan Erjavec

In memory of Anna Flaherty

George and Valerie Anichini

David E. Archibald family

Hilary Arnow

Carol and Peter Baker

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Barbara and Glen Bibbo

Judith Borchers

Brannon family

Mary and Robert Bruce

Laverne and Verne Caproni

Jeanne and Robert Casey

Rita and Michael Eischen

Tim and Sarah Ellsworth

Sheila Feldbaumer

Dale and Lynne Wehling Fester

Marjean Flaherty family

William Flaherty family

Dr. William Flaherty

Stephen R. Gawne, M.D.

Geraldine Gehrke

Katherine Gehrke

Jeffery Gottstein

Kathy Gould

Eugene L. Griffin and Assoc., Ltd.

Grogan family

Sarah Taylor Guenther

Dorothy Hannigan

Alan Hauser

Gloria Heatley

Roger Ted Johnson

Sheila Kelly

Kay Kirchberg

Mary and Matt Koykar

Anne and Bob Kraus

Beth and Thomas Kraus

Dorothy Kraus

Kathleen Lemense

Roselind Lindau

Lisa and Michael Lo Vallo

Helen Lynn

Peggy and Jack Macnamara

Margaret McMahon

Anabel Mendez

Dick and Judy Metken

Judith and Ralph Morello

Deborah and Charles Novak

Kristen O'Connor and Bill Davis

John and Kathy Olsen

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In memory of Michele Gaudin's mother

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Lois Guerin

May 19, 2014 to October 30, 2014

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In memory of Robert Huelsman

Genevieve Delana

In memory of Brian Irwin

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Coughlin Marsden

Michael Marsden

In memory of Dick McAndries

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In memory of Brian P. McDevitt

Brenda and Kevin McDevitt

In memory of Jean McHugh

M. Jane McHugh

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McKinney, O.S.B.**

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Kathy Caudill

Andrea Ciccone

George Courtney and Patricia
Cowhey

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Joanne Spata

Maurice Sullivan

Joseph Walsh

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of the McNamara family**

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**In memory of Edwin "Buddy"
McNamara**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Judith Borchers

Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B.

Donna Dehnert

Memorials

May 19, 2014 to October 30, 2014

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Donald and Dorothy Andries
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Joanne Spata

In memory of August Merkel

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In memory of Kevin and Yvonne O’Ryan

Michael O’Ryan

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In memory of Jennifer “Jem” Ouellette

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Margaret Cullen

In memory of Marc A. Perse

Margaret Cullen

In memory of Richard (Dick) Perse

Margaret Cullen

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In memory of Frieda Tomiser

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Thomas and Diane MacDonald

In memory of Joan Farrell Tuke

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Memorials and Special Occassions

May 19, 2014 to October 30, 2014

In memory of Tom, Mary and Bill Twardy

Judy and Jim Mall
Betty and Eino Seppala

In memory of Steve and Mary Vatch

Steven J. Vatch

In memory of Joan Hopkins Wallemark

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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Gerald and Virginia Waldron
Bonnie and Roger White
Regina Wilson
Ellen and Bill Wirth
Wroblewski Family
Barbara Zonsius
Michael and Mary Zonsius

Memorials and Special Occasions

May 19, 2014 to October 30, 2014

Special Occassions

In honor of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Joseph L. Rhodes

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. on her birthday

Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon

Blessings on the marriage of Kathleen Gould and Matt Richardson

Sister Virginia Jung, O.S.B.

In honor of Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B. on her birthday

Andrea Ciccone

In honor of Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B. on her 70th Jubilee

Andrea Ciccone

Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill

In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B. on her 101st birthday

Eileen and Lawrence Klonowski

Robert and Anne Kneesel

Florence Steele

Catherine Zwaska

In honor of Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B. on her birthday

Andrea Ciccone

In honor of Sister Agnes Kelly, O.S.B. on her 70th Jubilee

Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill

Andrea Ciccone

Winifred Fisher

Marjorie McDevitt

Eleanore Sheeny

In honor of Greg and Judy Matz

Donald Sprague

In honor of Sister Barbara McCarry, O.S.B. on her 50th Jubilee

Anonymous

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Andrea Ciccone

Patricia Cowhey and

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Mary Pat and Patrick Slattery

In honor of Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B. on her birthday

Andrea Ciccone

In honor of Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.

Dorothy McGurn and Class of 1947

In honor of Sister Mercedes Moore, O.S.B. on her birthday

Andrea Ciccone

In honor of Sister Ann Sharp, O.S.B. on her birthday

Andrea Ciccone

In honor of Sister Ann Sharp, O.S.B. on her 75th Jubilee

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Kathryn and Jeffrey Caudill

Katherine Gehrke

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Patricia Sharp

In celebration of the marriage of Claire DeLisle O’Ryan and Gregory Lyon Stegeman

Gregory Stegeman

In honor of Sister Joanna Trapp, O.S.B. on her birthday

Andrea Ciccone

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 with
this newsletter.





The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Annual Stewardship Report
Fiscal Year 2014



Message from the Prioress



Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

Dear Friends,

This past year you have been most generous to us. We pray that in your practice of generosity your life may be truly blessed. Generosity is a quality that opens our world to new possibilities each day. We recognize, of course, that it is God who is utterly generous to each of us.

During this past year you have assisted us in making some necessary repairs in our infirmary, St. Joseph Court, as well as, in continuing the ministry our Sisters do each day with people who are homeless, with new immigrants, with Catholic school boards, with parishioners who are sick or dying or looking to become more meaningfully involved in our church, and with people longing to find new ways to seek God and to pray.

Gratefully,

Patricia Crowley OSB

Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order because each and every one of you, no matter the size of your donation, is very special to our community. Please see page 16 for a listing of donors who gave in-kind donations, and page 17 for those who donated to Uncle Pete's Ministries. We are grateful to each of you!

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Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

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Your Generosity Supports Our Ministries

Sister Johnette Sawyer came into the monastery's administrative offices recently with a request. She wanted to let you, our supporters, know about the ministry she is able to do thanks to your contributions. So we asked her to write a few sentences about her music ministry. She responded enthusiastically:

She shares music at her local parish and also accompanies the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade choir at St. Therese Catholic School in Pueblo, Colorado. Her music ministry extends to local nursing homes where a group of school girls share the music they learn with the residents. In addition, Sister Johnette visits the sick and homebound and volunteers in the local Catholic gift store which she describes as "a fine outreach opportunity to evangelize and share spirituality with many."

She closes, saying, "Without your donations, I would not be able to do this work..." On behalf of the people Sister Johnette serves, we extend our gratitude to you for making our ministries, like Sister Johnette's, possible.



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Letter from the Director of Development

Dear Friends,

I left these hallowed halls as a graduate of the class of 1977, yet I now return here each day as the Director of Development. My purpose was different then; to learn all that I could from these incredible Sisters and my other learned teachers. And yet today, I have returned and I am still receiving an education.

I have come to know that the ladies who comprise the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago are some of the most accomplished women that I have ever met. They are articulate, warm and very intelligent. They are published authors, administrators, and counselors. They are gifted educators and mentors for all that are fortunate to have shared a classroom with them. They are a no-nonsense group of women who will not stand for injustice or inequality of any kind. Over the years, no one worked harder or cared more about all they came in contact with, and often received less in return, than the Benedictine Sisters. The majority have spent their entire adult life as Benedictine women, called to seek God in prayer and community, serving where there is need.

I have also learned a great deal about you, our cherished friends and supporters. You, too, are deeply rooted in our faith and in our vocation. Through your partnership with the Sisters, you have not only enabled them to continue in their ministry of serving where there is need; but you have become one with their mission. Through your continued generosity, you honor the past by caring for our retired Sisters and bolster our future as your funding helps to provide for the ongoing spiritual support and assistance that we provide to those in need. Through your benevolence, together we serve the people of God, in the spirit of the Gospel.

As the Director of Development, I am most grateful to you for all that you do for us. You have truly warmed the hearts of the Benedictine Sisters, as they pray for you daily. Please know how deeply the Sisters appreciate your uniting with them in support of their continued ministry.

With deepest gratitude,



Joanne Spata
Director of Development

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Your Gifts Support our Elderly Sisters

Thanks to your support, our elderly Sisters are going to have a warm winter. Last year's storms wore out the boiler and revealed cracks in the infirmary walls. You responded generously to our appeal. We were able to fix the boiler and tuckpoint the walls, ensuring the sisters another cozy winter.

We are also grateful for the many volunteers and donors who have enriched our Sisters' lives with classes in art, music, exercise, and more. The infirmary is a lively center for learning and living, thanks to your on-going support.





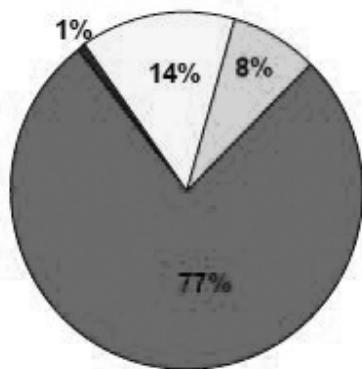
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Expenses and Losses – 2014



■ Members Support
\$1,780,664
■ Ministry Support
\$16,937
□ Admin & General
\$326,691
□ Depreciation
\$188,788

Total Expenses = \$2,313,080





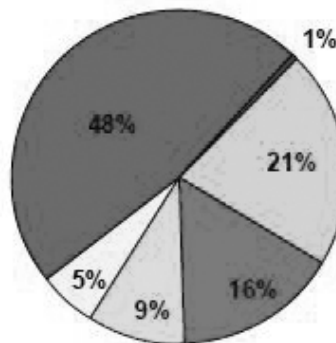
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Revenues & Gains - 2014



Total Revenues & Gains=\$2,470,815

■ Srs. Comp. & Benefits	\$522,773
■ General	\$391,748
□ Srs. SS Benefits	\$233,951
□ Int. Div. & Gains	\$134,649
■ Contributions	\$1,170,717
■ Other	\$16,977

*Other includes: Gains on sale of equipment, and gains on beneficial interest in Trust

Benedictine Legacy Society

**The following benefactors remembered the Benedictine Sisters
in their wills or trusts for which bequests or gifts were made
during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.**

Isabelle Atz
Msgr. Frances Maniola
Robert J. Novak
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**These generous friends join fellow Legacy Society members
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Contact Joanne Spata at 773.764.2413 x233 to learn more.

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Contact Joanne Spata, Director of Development, at 773.764.2413 x233 or JSpata@osbchicago.org.

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We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!*

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Thank you for your prayers and contributions that support the Benedictine community of sisters, oblates, alumnae and friends. We are pleased to present to you our annual report, starting after page 18.

