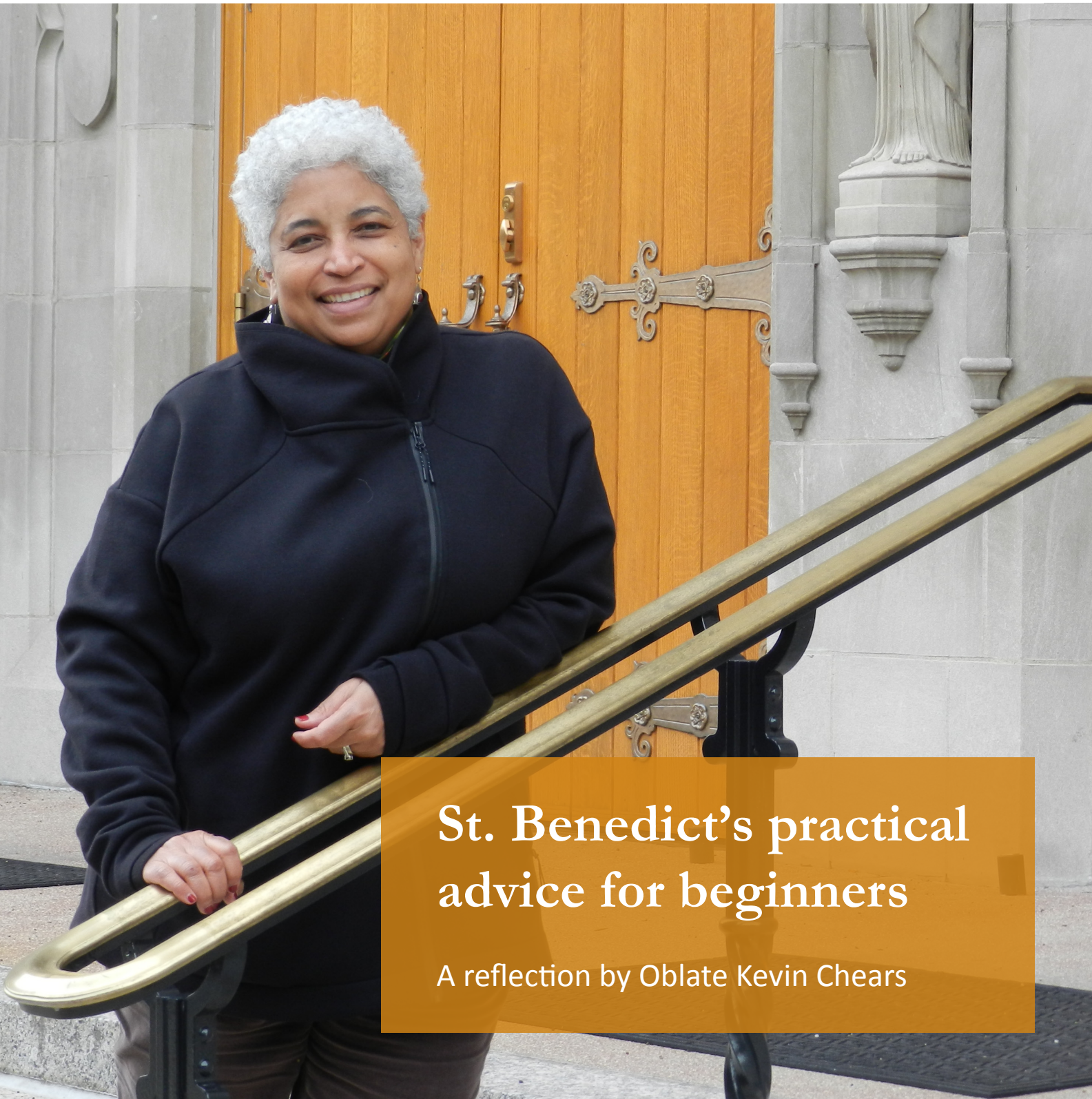




Sacro Speco

Sacred Space

THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE + WINTER/SPRING 2017



St. Benedict's practical
advice for beginners

A reflection by Oblate Kevin Chears

Winter/Spring Issue 2017, vol. XXVII, 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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Facebook: [/BenedictineSistersofChicago](https://facebook.com/BenedictineSistersofChicago)

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 x371. If you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter who would like to be included in a future mailing, please encourage them to contact us with their current name and address. Thank you and enjoy this issue!

Letter from the Prioress



*Sister Judith Murphy, OSB
Prioress*

*D*ear Friends,

Greetings to you in this new year! As we put together this magazine issue, we reflected on the theme of “hope.” Hope is a gift we have as humans to see beyond what is in front of us. It lights up our hearts and tells us, “carry on.” Hope encourages us to become the people God has called us to be.

For me, the best way to cultivate hope is to pray. It helps me to feel centered in God and reminded that God will help me through whatever challenges I am facing. As I read scripture, I am also encouraged: “And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you” (Psalm 39:7). Indeed, it is.

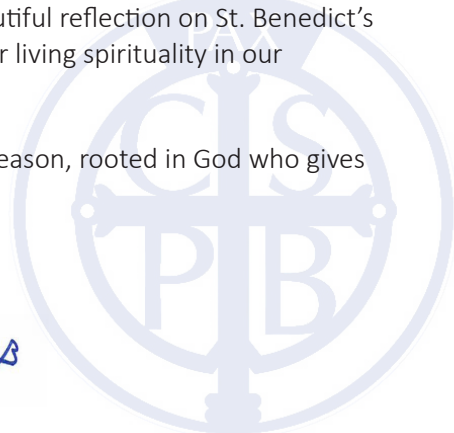
As you read through this magazine’s pages, I pray you will feel inspired, as I do, by reading the stories of our Benedictine family of Sisters, Oblates, alumnae, and friends. Make sure to read Oblate Kevin Chears’ beautiful reflection on St. Benedict’s practical and hopeful advice for living spirituality in our everyday lives.

May you have a joyful winter season, rooted in God who gives each of us the hope we need.

In peace,

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

Judith Murphy, OSB



Letters From You

NOTE OF GRATITUDE

St. Scholastica was such an amazing place to become a young woman. Thank you so much for all the love and work you invested in us. May God continue to bless you and the teachers you served with.

-Tikva Frantz
St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago, '02

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

If you have a letter you would like to share here, contact:
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Attn: Sacro Speco Newsletter
7430 N. Ridge Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60645
Or email nsotelo@osbchicago.org with subject line “For Sacro Speco Letters.” We will publish letters as space permits.

Monastery News

At the 2016 American Benedictine Academy convention that took place this summer, [Sister Susan Quaintance](#) completed her two-year term as President of the organization. Congratulations, Sister Susan! The next convention will take place in July 2018. For more information about the convention or the organization's work to promote Benedictine scholarship and spirituality, visit www.americanbenedictine.org.

[Sister Patricia Crowley](#) traveled to Rome in September for Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum, an international meeting of Benedictine Sisters from around the globe. While there, Sister Patricia had the opportunity to greet the newly elected Abbot Primate of the worldwide Benedictine order, Abbot Gregory Polan of Conception Abbey in Missouri. She also participated in a meeting of Benedictine representatives with Pope Francis. In October, she traveled to Erie, PA for the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue Board meeting that brings together Catholic monastic religious women and men. Also attending was an advisory board comprised of thought leaders in monasticism, including from other traditions such as Buddhism.

A Nun's Life is an online ministry that promotes the life of women religious today. They are celebrating their 10th year of ministry and decided to celebrate with a road-trip between Ohio and California, stopping at communities of Sisters along the way. Thanks to [Sister Belinda Monahan](#) who coordinated their visit from October 15-17, we had the honor of hosting them for their Chicago stop. To learn more about A Nun's Life, visit their website at www.anunslife.org.

The monastery was selected to participate in the Chicago Architectural Foundation's "Open House Chicago." It is a two-day event during which selected buildings throughout the city are open to the public. [Sister Benita Coffey](#) and [Sister Mary Melady](#) coordinated the day, along with the volunteer help of many Oblates and other Sisters. We had more than 500 visitors to St. Scholastica Chapel over the weekend of October 15th-16th. If you haven't been to the monastery's chapel in a while, we have daily prayer and Sunday Mass open to the public. Please call [Sister Judith Murphy](#) at 773.764.2413 x230 to learn more about days and times.

[Sister Ann Sharp](#) was featured on the website of the Viatorians, a religious order of men. Her brother, William Sharp, joined the Viatorian community in 1938. Within a year, he passed away from tuberculosis. Before he died, he was able to make his final vows to become a Viatorian brother. Sister Ann, who had entered the Benedictine Sisters, made her first vows just one week before he passed away. To read the beautiful story of these two siblings who answered their call to God, visit www.viatorians.com/long-lost-viatorian-brother-discovered

Sisters and donors gathered for the annual Liturgy of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 20, 2016. Before Mass, [Prioress Judith Murphy](#) blessed the keys of the monastery's new handicap accessible van. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the Sisters were able to purchase the van that [Sister Jane Smith](#) uses to drive Sisters to the doctor and other appointments.



Sister Karen Bland (left) was featured in the national Sister To All campaign that took place during the month of September. Sister Karen works with people who are experiencing homelessness or in need of supportive services through her role as Executive Director of Grand Valley Catholic Outreach. To learn more about Sister Karen and the Sister To All campaign, visit www.SisterToAll.org.



{A Sister Story}

Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB

At 103 years old, Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB, remains committed to serving where there is need.

When asked what drew her to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Vivian Ivantic enthusiastically recalls her first grade teacher, Sister Adelaide. “There were well over 50 students in the classroom, and Sister Adelaide was a wonderful, hard-working teacher. I wanted to be like her. I never gave up wanting to be a Sister.”

In 1932-- a year after she finished high school-- Sister Vivian entered the Benedictines, “a community I love.” She notes, “We are called to serve where there is need, and all the Sisters have tried to answer that call with their lives.”

It’s been over 80 years since she entered the order. She made her first profession in 1934. Sister Vivian has consistently met the call to serve where there is need. She taught both elementary and high school students in Arizona, Colorado, and Illinois. She also served as a librarian in both Chicago, Illinois, and in Colorado. “I always did my best in caring for and educating the children.”

In 1977, Sister Vivian was called to become the archivist

for the order. “For me,” Sister notes, “one of the greatest joys in being the archivist was interviewing the older Sisters. I learned who they were, where they came from, and what

they did in community in the past. But more importantly, I discovered these women’s dedication to this particular life defines not just who we were, but who we still are in terms of our commitment to helping all God’s children.”

Sister Vivian remains faithful to serving God’s people where there is need. Sister now lives a life of quiet prayer for the world, for the many sufferings people face from natural disasters or at the hands of others, and for peace.

When asked to offer a “pearl of wisdom” that she’d like to share with others, Sister Vivian tenderly expressed, “It’s so important for us to remember that we are God’s children. God made all of us. And we need to love each other.”

*“It is so
important for us
to remember
that we are
God’s children.”*

-Sister Vivian

This article is reprinted with permission from SOAR! Spotlight www.soar-usa.org. In 2016, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago received a SOAR! grant to purchase furniture and physical therapy equipment for the Sisters in the infirmary.



Oblate Candidates Share their Journey

Kate Zilla, an Associate Professor at National Louis University, felt God calling her to something deeper. Already she was an active member of her parish and part of an online community of lay associates, but she wanted to explore Benedictine spirituality “closer to home, in an in-person community,” she said. “Being in community is essential to me in further exploring my faith.”

So Kate, along with four other men and women ranging in age from 27 to 71, declared her intention to become an Oblate Candidate at a ceremony held at St. Scholastica Chapel on Sunday, September 18th. Joining her in this commitment were Rachel Peterson, Benedict Hane, Brooke Johnson, and Dan Raven.

Oblates are lay women and men who, like Sisters, are committed to following the Benedictine path in prayer and work. While Sisters live in community with one another, Oblates are single or married persons who live in their own homes but come together in community on a monthly basis.

Each of the five people who made their commitment in September felt drawn to become an Oblate for various reasons. Dan Raven, a retired public school teacher and massage therapist, mentions his many contacts with the Benedictine Sisters over the years, including when he created the labyrinth at the monastery property. He

remembers the warm words from Sister Jane, “However you pray, you are welcome here. This is a place of prayer.” Recently, after receiving encouragement from some Sisters, he says, “I decided to dig deeper.” He enrolled with Sister Joan Hentges to start the Oblate journey. He remarks, “Considering and studying to be an Oblate has strengthened my core spiritual beliefs.”

Brooke Johnson had never met the Benedictine Sisters before. Brooke is a mother who notes that she felt drawn to become a Benedictine Oblate through a friend’s recommendation. She began her search on the internet where she found St. Scholastica monastery’s website and reached out to one of the Sisters. As a Quaker, she says she loves the “simplicity of worship” she has found in Benedictine spirituality.

“My late Father was an Oblate with another monastery,” recalls Benedict Hane, “which probably put the term ‘Oblate’ on my radar from a young age.” Benedict says that he has had a long interest in trying to apply monastic principles to his daily life. He notes that he started “from an admittedly beginner’s interest in Buddhism as a teenager” but also had connections with Benedictine monks and more recently tried to practice the Benedictine Rule during the course of his day job creating continuing medical education as an Editor and Content Developer. He found himself

“I love that the road to learning in Benedictine spirituality is realistic and understanding...”

-Rachel Peterson

desiring a more intentional formation process as “an obvious next step.”

Before becoming Oblate Candidates, the group met regularly with Sister Joan Hentges. As a cohort, they had a chance to deepen their understanding of the Rule of St. Benedict in a modern context and have support for the journey. Rachel Peterson, a non-profit web and digital design professional, says “After meeting Sister Joan, and learning more about the Benedictine rule, I’ve felt more centered in my faith.” She goes on to say that “reading Sister Joan Chittister’s practical application of the Rule has expanded my understanding of issues I’ve always struggled with in the church.”

“I love that the road to learning in Benedictine spirituality is realistic and understanding,” says Rachel. “Life is messy. Understanding God, figuring out who we are as children of God and learning how we fit into this world isn’t an easy thing. Benedictine spirituality understands, guides and recognizes these difficulties, while providing an accepting space to learn and grow together.”

Benedict agrees. Benedictine spirituality is “human focused, while not losing its sense of gravity. With an emphasis on a ‘hand to work, heart to God’ approach, you integrate faith into all aspects of life, no matter if you’re out protesting for your values, or washing the dishes on a Monday evening.”

For those who wonder if they are called to become Oblates, Benedict encourages that the Rule is “an excellent ‘guidebook’ to living the Gospel in your personal and family life.” He recognizes that the Rule was written for a community of people living together and that the same struggles that take place in a monastery also take place in a home, ranging from “interpersonal conflict, work-life balance, chores, and prayer life.” The Rule “lays out ways to approach these struggles in a genuinely Christian way.”

Dan also affirms that when someone asks him about his studies to become an Oblate, “I tell them my own story of being a seeker and asking questions all my life and invite them to explore for themselves.”

“It is a journey and a calling,” reflects Kate, “so know that it will take time and reflection.... It can change your life, and is well worth the effort.”

If you are interested in becoming an Oblate, contact Sister Joan Hentges, 773.764.2413 x243, jhentges@osbchicago.org.

(opposite page) Oblate Candidates after the ceremony (l - r): Rachel Peterson, Benedict Hane, Brooke Johnson, Sister Joan Hentges, Dan Raven, Kate Zilla. (this page, below left) Sister Judith Murphy, Prioress, speaks with each Candidate during the ceremony. (this page, below right) The congregation blesses the Candidates who stand in the front of the chapel.





(left) Students stand on the front steps of the historic main building on the St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City campus. Photo courtesy of a relative of alumna Clara Margaret Schmitz '23.

Cañon City Alumna Aims to Preserve Campus

Cheloyne “Lonnie” Miller Mosher attended St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City, class of 1974 and remains passionately connected to the campus. The Sisters sold the property in 2006, but the current owner is looking to sell it again. Over the last year, Lonnie has been on a mission to save the historic main building on the St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City campus. She and a group of alumnae maintain a website where they hope to document the process of their efforts and invite others to join them. To learn more or get involved, visit www.615pike.com.

In Memoriam

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

Alice O’Meara (1927), sister of deceased Frances Byrne O’Meara (1936)
 Juliette Marie Grace Chapman (1936) (deceased 2008*)
 Frances O’Meara Byrne (1936), sister of deceased Alice O’Meara (1927) (Frances deceased 2013*)
 Eileen D. Guardalabene, daughter of Felice Guardalabene (1940)
 Lucy Harrison Henry (1940), mother of Mary Ann Henry Kenney (1968)
 Elaine Power Argote (1941) (deceased 2010*)
 Eileen Wolfe Perille (1941) (deceased 2011*)
 Kathleen McCabe Colgan (1946)
 Mary Seabrook Stanton (1946) (deceased 2015*)
 Elaine Freymann Blair (1947)
 Joan Foley Fickinger (1947)
 Raymond R. Sagan, husband of Patricia Malloy Sagan (1947)
 Virginia Lake Thomas (1947) (deceased 5/3/16*)
 Ronald Johnson, MD, husband of Charlotte Stoll Johnson (1949)
 Barbara Wallace Kannenberg (1949), sister of Marguerite (Mimi) Wallace Newton (1953)

Timothy Newquist, son of Shirley Beninghoff Newquist (1949)
 Mary Schuster Sullivan (1949), sister of Marilyn Schuster Stratz (1956)
 Maureen “Mo” Moore Milz (1951) (deceased 2015*)
 Edward L. Rolfsen, brother of Marilyn Rolfsen Moore (1953)
 Stephen John Woodcock, grandson of Mary Anne Liske Woodcock (1954)
 Celeste Shaw Sullivan (1956), sister of Leslie “Pat” Shaw (1959)
 Judith Worley White (1957)
 Sandra Welter Raess (1958)
 Allen Busa, husband of Marilyn McKenna Busa (1960)
 Sister Jean Maher, OSB (1960)
 Thomas Gara, brother of Eileen Gara Dunphy (1960) (deceased) (former Sister Michaeline OSB), father of Maureen Crocker (1980), Mary Kay Dreyfus (1983), and Sheila Gara Finnegan (1985)
 John Guswiler, husband of deceased Margaret Scanlon Guswiler (1961), father of Nancy Guswiler (1987) and Christine Guswiler (1989)
 Mary Lou Kalgert Queeney (1963) (deceased 2015*)
 Colleen Schack Vondale (1966) (deceased 2015)

Catherine Jarzombek, mother of Arlene Porter (1967), Jeannine Merkelz (1973) and Geri Jarzombek (1974)
 Linda Conrad Tomas (1968)
 Patrick Hagerty, son of Kimberly Boyce-Hagerty (1973)
 Peter Hajdu, husband of Melissa Bianchi Hajdu (1973)
 Venice Meyer Zetterlund (1976), sister of Sharon Meyer (1978), Cathy Pattullo (1980) and Lisa Hunt (1984)
 Willard Burns, father of Mary Sue Mackey (1982), Mary Anne Burns (1982) and Mary Beth Burns (1985)
 Denice Houston, mother of Donell Houston (1993)

St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

Oblate Barbara Reynolds Toal (1947) (deceased 2012*)
 Carl Lind, husband of Sally Roche Lind (1950)

*The above represents notices received June 1, 2016-October 24, 2016.
 * denotes that death was prior to June 1, 2016, but we received notice of their death in the last five months.*



St. Scholastica Alumnae & Teachers Reunite

The alumnae of St. Scholastica Academies in Cañon City and Chicago continue to gather for reunions each year. Cañon City alumnae meet with alumni of The Abbey for an all-school reunion each August. This year there were more than 70 participants that came together over the weekend of August 19-21 for a wine tasting, dinner, campus tour, and more. Sister Benita Coffey, OSB flew out from Chicago to represent the Sisters who founded and taught at the Academy.

The alumnae and teachers from class years ending in '1 and '6 at St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago reunited the weekend of October 22-23. Saturday night kicked off with a cocktail reception and dinner. Throughout the evening, a photographer took class photos and alumnae and teachers offered speeches. At the end of the evening, everyone watched the local Cubs baseball team win a game on the video screens in the room. The next morning everyone

gathered for the Alumnae Memorial Mass, refreshments, and a visit to the school campus.

Thanks to all the alumnae, teachers and staff who made this year's reunion weekends so festive and fun. Dates for next year's reunions in Cañon City and Chicago will be announced soon at www.osbchicago.org/reunion.

Photos, clockwise from top, 1) An alumna stops for a photo with Sister Callista Kaley, OSB, a former teacher at St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago. 2) Alumnae of St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City go for a tour of the campus and take a group photo in front of the former dormitory. 3) Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, and Oblate Kathlyn Myers share a laugh during the Chicago reunion. 4) The class of 1991 from Chicago reminisces as they look through their old school yearbook. Additional photos from both reunions are available in online albums. You can view them here: www.facebook.com/BenedictineSistersofChicago/photos



St. Benedict's practical advice for beginners

An Oblate reflects on the hope she finds

by Oblate Kevin Chears

I have lived in the Midwest my entire life, so a sense of seasons is deeply ingrained in me. Each season has its own rhythm and invites me to experience the world differently.

There is something special, however, about spring and the promises it holds of new life and renewal. Spring carries with it possibilities of being better, loving more deeply, listening more carefully. Spring offers the hope of new beginnings. We are all beginners in spring.

"Then with Christ's help, keep this little rule that we have written for beginners"
RB 73.8

It was during the Spring of 2006 that I became an Oblate. As an Oblate I am someone who has given my oblation or promise to be guided by the Rule of Benedict. Oblates are everyday people. We are no holier than anyone else. We are

women, men, laity, religious, clergy, Catholic and non-Catholic. We come from all walks of life. What we share, though, is a commitment to Benedictine spirituality. It is this commitment that links us to those who have vowed to live a monastic life. Like vowed monastics, we are connected to a specific community of faith and belief.

The Benedictine way is very simple yet very profound. The Rule, simply stated, asks that: We prefer nothing to Christ and supplicate Him in all that we do. We meet everyone with humility. We seek to be of service wherever there is need. We show hospitality to all. We spend time in reflection, embrace solitude, and pray regularly.

"This message of mine is for you, then, if you are ready to give up your own will, once and for all and armed with the strong and noble weapons of obedience to do battle for the true King, Christ the Lord"
RB Prologue 3

As close as possible to March 21, the Feast Day of St. Benedict, Oblates gather at the monastery for a day of reflection and the renewal of our oblation. New oblates make their first oblation and candidates declare their interest in learning more about Benedictine spirituality. It is a day rich in sharing, meaning, reflection and belonging.

"I promise again to dedicate myself to the service of God and God's people according to the Rule of St. Benedict insofar as my state of life permits"
Part of the Renewal of Oblation

As an Oblate I am part of a community that encourages me to live my life in accordance with the Rule and in harmony with the world around me.

Being an Oblate profoundly impacts how I experience my life and my faith. I live with a sense of greater joy and contentment. I am drawn to action, to do what should be done, motivated by hope rather than despair. I live more deeply with purpose and intentionality.

Being an Oblate encourages me to listen more deeply when others speak by using the ear of my heart. I endeavor not to be driven by judgment or opinion, rather to work on seeing others in the light of God's grace. Sometimes this is not easy.

Being an Oblate has taught me that hospitality is more than making sure that every meeting has refreshments (although food never hurts). Benedictine hospitality is grounded in respectful sharing which means making sure that everyone is involved and that everyone has the opportunity to be heard, especially those who feel they have no voice.

Being an Oblate gives me the gift of stability and a sense of place. Reminding me that God is present, not only in me, but also in everything around me including the earth itself and all forms of life.

Being an Oblate encourages me to foster humility in thought and action. I don't have to be first or have all the answers or solve problems on my own. Through my choice of following The Rule, I have grown in my awareness of what it

means to be an open hearted/open handed participant in all my communities: family, work, church, and with my fellow Oblates.

Being an Oblate I continue to learn the difference between silence and contemplation. Silence is what I wake up to in the mornings now that my husband and I are empty nesters. Contemplation is what I experience when I am still and open myself to talk with God.

Being an Oblate I look for deeper meaning and understanding as I listen for God's voice. Lectio divina or the contemplative reading so much a part of the Benedictine spiritual practice has given me a new lens for how I read most things from the Gospels and Psalms, to magazines, newspapers and popular fiction. With Lectio the voice of God

is everywhere.

Being an Oblate means wrestling with what it means to be obedient. This can be hard sometimes as I continue to struggle with learning to be in harmony with God, others and myself.

Being an Oblate is to be aware and alert to continual conversion of the heart by being willing to let go and move ever more closer to God.

I became an Oblate because I wanted a deeper relationship with God. I have received what I sought and so much more. The practical spirituality of the Rule gives me the hope that comes from the certainty of God's grace and a way of being in connection with the world that I previously had not known.

"The practical spirituality of the Rule gives me the hope that comes from the certainty of God's grace...."

-Oblate Kevin Cheers

"These, then, are the tools of the spiritual craft. When we have used them without ceasing day and night and have returned them on judgement day, our wages will be the reward the Lord has promised: 'What the eye has not seen nor the ear heard, God has prepared for those who love him' (1 Cor. 2:9)."
RB 4.75-77

**All quotations are from The Rule of St. Benedict in English by Timothy Fry, O.S.B. Editor. The Liturgical Press, 1982.*

Join us for these upcoming events

“Paul! We Never Knew That About You!”

The St. Paul We Discover in the Undisputed Letters, a lecture by Prof. Wendy Cotter, CSJ
Sunday, January 22, 2017
3:00-4:30 p.m., free
For more info, contact: Sister Benita Coffey, OSB
773.764.2413 x327

Winter Day of Reflection

Led by Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB
Sister Mary Melady, OSB
Saturday, January 28, 2017
9:30-3:30, \$30 donation
For more info or to register, contact:
Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB, 773.764.2413 x374

Feast of St. Scholastica Mass

Friday, February 10, 2017
5:00 p.m.
To attend, contact:
Sister Judith Murphy, OSB, 773.764.2413 x230

Knitting & Giving: An Afternoon at the Monastery for Young Catholic Women

To Celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week
Saturday, March 11, 2017, free
To learn more, contact:
Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 773.338.7063

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, 2016 - October 24, 2016

Memorials

In memory of Trudy Anderson and family

Patricia Campion
Andrea Ciccone

In memory of Margaret Tows Aragon

John Aragon

In memory of Elaine Power Argote

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Bernadette Axtman

Susan Goedke

In memory of the Bajda family

Danuta Bajda

In memory of Wojciech Bajda

Danuta Bajda

In memory of Carole J. Baron

Patricia Kardasz

In memory of Sally Beatty

Marilyn L. Graybill

In memory of deceased Benedictine

Sisters of Chicago

Mary Desmond

Margaret and Stephan Lombardo

In memory of Bianco

Catherine Nagler

In memory of Elaine Freymann Blair

Benedictine sisters of Chicago

In memory of Margaret Schorsch Boyle

Mary Finnan

In memory of Jeb Brewer

William J. Fitzgerald

In memory of John F. Broderick, Jr.

Marjorie McDevitt

In memory of Carl Bronder

Joanne Spata

In memory of Rev. Willis Bruce

Barbara Lock Hickman

In memory of deceased members of the Brunk family

Helen Ueberbacher

In memory of Charles Paul Burkhart

Chuck Burnham and Patty Martin

Josephine and Ray Krasovic

In memory of Willard J. Burns

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Kathleen and Paul Blahunka

Willard J. Burns family

Andrea Ciccone

Calvin Claus

Alice Curran

Timothy and Sheila Drevyanko

Mary Ellen and Gregory Dockum

Penny Kerndt

Kay and John Kyle

Jackie LeSanche

Clara and John Littau

Jim Mackey and Nancy Wilcox

Colleen Mulligan and Carey Orr

Mary Mulligan

Brian and Wanda Pabich

Catherine and Harry Riley

Loretta Urukalo

Diane and Terrence Voelker

In memory of Allen Busa

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Chester Bush

Richard and Stephanie Klingelsmith

In memory of Carol Ann Barrett Butler

Richard Butler

In memory of Juliette Marie

Grace Chapman

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Eloise Chester

Barbara Lock Hickman

In memory of Frances Ciaccio

Joanne Spata

In memory of Mary Cielinski

Clare, Mike, John, Michael and Sophia

Brandys-Mastrells

Lucille Radzicki

Prayer Ministry - June 1, 2016 - October 24, 2016

[In memory of Kathleen McCabe Colgan](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Mary and Robert Cornella](#)

Robert and Beth Cornella

[In memory of Joseph and Mary](#)

[Connolly Crean](#)

Francis Crean, RSM

[In memory of Joseph Cleary](#)

Anne Porter

[In memory of Annie Cullen](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of George Cullen, Sr.](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Antonio D'Ambrosio](#)

Joanne Spata

[In memory of Oscar O. D'Angelo](#)

Joanne Spata

[In memory of Sister Victoria Davis, OSB](#)

Paul and Suzanne Betts

[In memory of Thomas Hayes DelComa](#)

Dorothy Andries

[In memory of Marianne Dunne](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Jack and Julie Evans](#)

Leslie and D. E. Dickerson

[In memory of deceased members of the](#)

[Ferrari and Logue families](#)

Noreen Ferrari and Barbara Logue

[In memory of Joan Foley Fickinger](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Stephen Gilles and Laurie Feldman

John Grant

Long Beach Condo Family and Staff

Joan O'Connell

Maureen and Martin O'Connor

Ann Slavick

Mary Needham Turek

Jo Rydholm

[In memory of Thomas Gara](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary Beth Dentzer

[In memory of Lois Hayhurst Gaquin](#)

James Gaquin, Jr.

[In memory of Donald Gerk](#)

Suzanne Miller

[In memory of Joseph T. Glab](#)

Lois Glab

[In memory of Sister Carolyn Glach, OSB](#)

Helen M. Davis

[In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB](#)

Suzanne Walsh

[In memory of Eileen D. Guardalabene](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Felice Guardalabene

[In memory of John Guswiler](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Ralph Habeck](#)

Katherine and William Milleker

[In memory of Patrick Hagerty](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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Prayer Ministry - June 1, 2016 - October 24, 2016

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*“...I remember
you constantly
in my prayers.”*

-2 Timothy 1:3

In memory of Edward L. Rolfsen

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In memory of deceased members of the Sullivan family

John L. Wren

In memory of Celeste Shaw Sullivan

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In memory of deceased members of the Wren family

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Prayer Ministry - June 1, 2016 - October 24, 2016

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In memory of Venice Meyer Zetterlund

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Zuercher, OSB

Rose Mary Finnegan

Valerie Stockmar

Special Occasions

**In honor of Sister Karen A. Bland, OSB for
17 years as Executive Director of Grand
Valley Catholic Outreach**

Grand Valley Catholic Outreach

**In honor of Sister Karen A. Bland, OSB on
her 60th Jubilee**

Nancy Bryers

Andrea Ciccone

In honor of Mary L. Byrne on her birthday

Mary Turek

In honor of Canon City Sisters

Martha and Robert Drake

Kayoko Morton

**In honor of Father Dominic Clemente on
his ordination**

Nancy and Jeffrey Wagner

**In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on
her birthday**

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**In honor of Sue and Ed Davis on their 60th
wedding anniversary**

Connie and Dick Rosler

**In honor of Pat and Jim Dolan on their
62nd wedding anniversary**

Patricia Olson Dolan

**Blessings on the marriage of Karlee and
Steve Fanuda**

Sister Susan Kilduski, OSB

In honor of Sister Joan Hentges, OSB

Dorothy Mansfield

**In honor on their 50th wedding
anniversary of Cathy and Sam Ingraffia**

Jeanne and Marty Stanton

In honor of Tony Ingraffia

Jeanne and Marty Stanton

**In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on
her 103rd birthday**

Mary Bzik

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**In honor of Sister Anne Krall, OSB on her
60th Jubilee**

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**In honor of Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB
on her birthday**

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In honor of John Olen on his 50th birthday

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**In honor of Sister Sue Remsgar, OSB on
her 50th Jubilee**

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**In thanks to the Sisters as I celebrate my
70th birthday**

Mary O'Connell

In honor of Sister Jane Smith, OSB

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In honor of Sister Joanna Trapp, OSB

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**In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Van Swol
on their 15th wedding anniversary**

Helen A. Lyon



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.



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Annual Stewardship Report
Fiscal Year 2015-2016



Message from the Prioress



Dear Friends,

What a wonderful year this has been, thanks to your generous support. On behalf of all the Sisters, let me extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for the ways that you support both our community and partner with us in our mission. Your financial contributions, your volunteer hours, and your prayers all help to keep the Benedictine spirit thriving in Chicago, Colorado, and beyond.

This year you helped us purchase an accessible van so that our sisters who use wheelchairs can get to and from their doctor appointments more easily. You also helped us ensure our infirm Sisters had everything they needed for their day to day care. Additionally, your support went toward repairs and upgrades at the monastery which benefit not only our Sisters who live here but also all the people who come through our doors for prayer or spirituality programs. Thank you for all the ways you generously participate in the Benedictine mission. May God bless you in the year to come.

Peace and blessings to you!

Judith Murphy, OSB

List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order. Please see pages 30-31 for a listing of donors who gave in-kind donations, and for those who donated to Uncle Pete's Ministries.

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Thank you for partnering with us in ministry

Sister Mary and Sister Rita know that the actions of today's living generations could affect the health of the entire planet. Last spring they held a day-long "Introduction to Eco-Spirituality" retreat. During the retreat, participants were invited to learn more about the earth and spirituality through experiential activities, prayer, and reflection. Participants left the day with practical tips to help heal the earth and feel rooted in God's creation.

This is just one of the many ministries our Sisters do each day, from religious education to counseling. We are so grateful that you partner with us in our ministries by providing financial support and volunteer time to bring such vital ministries to the Chicago area and beyond. Together with you, we're sharing Benedictine values to help others become the thriving people--and planet--that God created us to be.

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Note from the Director of Development

Dear Friends,

I am always so grateful for your generosity. Your partnership with us through your financial contributions and volunteer time help to keep the Benedictine mission thriving in Chicago and beyond. Your gifts support our elder Sisters, along with our spirituality and justice programs. On behalf of the Sisters, let me extend our special thanks to those who contributed towards our mid-year appeal. Thanks to you, the Sisters purchased a wheelchair accessible van this autumn. We blessed the keys of the van at the Liturgy of Thanksgiving on November 20th (*lower left*) and now Sister Jane Smith (*upper left*) has been able to drive our elder Sisters to their appointments with much more ease and safety.

With deepest gratitude,

Joanne Spata

Joanne Spata, Director of Development

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Your Gifts Support our Elder Sisters

Sister Victoria taught elementary school all her life. Now, in her 90s, she still gets to go to school. Every week she has the opportunity to attend an enrichment class such as music, theater or art.

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



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every time
I remember you.”*

-Phillipians 1:3

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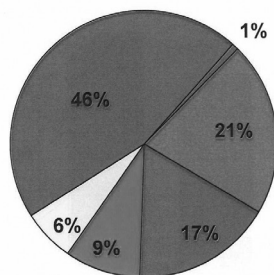
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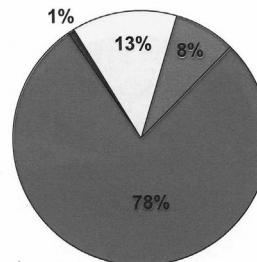


■ Srs. Comp. & Benefits	\$514,789
■ General	\$415,476
■ Srs. SS Benefits	\$223,710
□ Int. Div. & Gains	\$156,890
■ Contributions	\$1,115,483
■ Other*	\$23,333

Revenues and Gains

Total Revenues & Gains = \$2,453,009
(Graph does not include gain on the sale of equipment of \$3,328.)

*Other includes: Property damage ins. reimburse. and gains on beneficial interest in Trust.



■ Members Support	\$1,908,093
■ Ministry Support	\$18,260
□ Admin & General	\$327,642
■ Depreciation	\$190,623

Expenses and Losses

Total Expenses = \$2,444,618



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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 2015-2016 fiscal year.**

Kathleen Gietl
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Joan Langhenry

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**These generous friends join fellow Legacy Society members
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**More than a legal document, your will is a testament to your life's work,
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be honored to be remembered as part of your legacy.**

Contact Joanne Spata at 773.764.2413 x233 to learn more.

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Bequests in Wills or Gifts in Trust

Your planned gifts ensure that your legacy of caring will continue. If you would like to learn more about remembering the Sisters in your will or trust, please contact us or have your estate attorney do so.

Questions?

Contact Joanne Spata, Director of Development, at 773.764.2413 x233.

A "+" sign 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, 2015 to June 30, 2016. We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!

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promote Benedictine
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in our church and world.





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