



Sacro Speco

Sacred Space

THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE + SUMMER/FALL 2021



Scholasticans to the Rescue

By Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB

Summer/Fall Issue 2021, vol. XXXII, no. 1



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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,

By now you have heard our news of discerning how to “right-size” what our housing for the future needs to look like, and if you haven’t heard, please read my letter found on page 5 of this issue of *Sacro Speco*. We are so grateful for your support, and the words of encouragement and understanding, while we continue this careful process.

With attention to Care for God’s Creation in our hearts and minds as we deliberate about our future planning, this theme also weaves through this edition of our biannual magazine. You will learn about Sister Patti Cielinski’s faithful training in Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement—a living example attuned to the spirit of Laudato Si. We hear as well from SSA Chicago ’55 alumna Sister Melinda Roper who as a Maryknoll Missionary has spent most of her years of ministry in Panama. In her interview, she shares that Panama is the “biological bridge of the Americas”—all life forms from the north moving south and those from the south migrating north meet in Panama, a geographic region she has called home for almost 40 years, after growing up in the Great Lakes region.

In the wake of George Floyd’s murder and the racial reckoning that followed, Sister Susan Quaintance tells how she, as the Director of the Center for Life and Learning (CLL) at Fourth Presbyterian Church, endeavored to ensure CLL had an anti-racist program. Sister Susan hired six BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) Scholastic alumnae to teach programs and stand-alone offerings for the older adults of the CLL educational outreach program. And we hear from SSA Chicago ’82 alumna Dr. Julie Morita, a Biden-Appointee to the Covid-19 task force during the transition from the 2020 election to the 2021 inauguration. Through her career in public health, from the Chicago Department of Health to her current position with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Dr. Morita has remained service-oriented, and she cannot now remain quiet in the face of rising numbers in expressions of anti-Asian hate.

The Sisters and I continue to look forward to opportunities to meet in person as Covid mitigation measures decrease with the rising vaccination rates in our city and state; we are happily anticipating our St. Scholastica Alumnae Reunion scheduled for Sunday, September 19th. Read on for details and much more. Please join us in continued prayer for our entire world!

Yours in peace and hope,

Judith Murphy, OSB

Letters From You

ST. SCHOLASTICA MEMORIES

Dear Sisters,

This is to thank you for my excellent education and your continuing mission to our broken world. I really enjoy *Sacro Speco* and your commitment to social justice.

Again, many thanks,

-Linda Connolly McNeely,
St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago ’66

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 smeluso@osbchicago.org with subject line “For Sacro Speco Letters.”
We will publish letters as space permits.



Monastery News

What better way to fight the doldrums of January and February than with [Sister Pat Coughlin's](#) Dreams and Spirituality Workshop? For two hours every Tuesday morning, Sister Pat, licensed psychotherapist and spiritual director, led eager attendees in group discussion and dyad sharing. By analyzing their dream journals, participants explored various themes of communication and wisdom to integrate into their lives-- an ideal respite during dark winter months.

After a year in Africa, [Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB](#) didn't skip a beat before offering an online ministry through two virtual courses: *Lectio Divina* and *A Deeper Look at Fratelli Tutti in Spite of Its Title*. Her first workshop, *Lectio Divina*, explores the spiritual practice of an ancient form of reading and praying with scripture. The monthly course began in February and continues through the year. Her second course, *A Deeper Look at Fratelli Tutti in Spite of Its Title*, examines Pope Francis's encyclical and provides participants a medium with which to dive into the Church's current teachings.

In its fifth consecutive year, the [Benedictine Oblates of St. Scholastica Monastery](#) presented a mid-winter lecture open to the public. The speakers for these events over the years have been women of notoriety who donate their time, expecting no stipend. On March 7th, communications professional and author Nicole Sotelo gave a virtual talk entitled "To Share the Common Table: A Benedictine Vision for Living in Times of Division." Captivated Zoom participants listened as she discussed aspects of internal narratives, forgiveness and reconciliation, and St. Benedict's wisdom regarding reconciliation.

Congratulations! Our dedicated [Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB](#) was recently promoted to the Executive Committee of the National Religious Vocation Conference Board of Directors. Having already served for almost four years, Sister Belinda's commitment to local and national vocation ministry continues through this leadership role.

Benedictine Spirituality has existed for centuries. Even a pandemic couldn't diminish the value of community. This year, we celebrated parts of Holy Week via Facebook Livestream and Zoom. Technology brought us together in prayer on Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Thank you for joining us! We hope to offer more virtual Masses in the future.

Oblate [Dan Raven](#), the Midwest Labyrinth Society Representative, hosted a socially distanced on-site World Labyrinth Day event on May 1st. Not only is Dan a fantastic resource on the building and workings of labyrinths, he generously gives time annually for this event. Those who visited the St. Scholastica Monastery Labyrinth, left feeling better connected to the peaceful energy resonating across the globe. You are invited to walk the labyrinth during daylight hours any day of the year.

Years ago, [Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB](#) established a community Archives. [Sister Virginia Jung, OSB](#) continues the important work of cataloguing books written by Benedictine Sisters about the areas in which they've ministered. She also processes general files for each living and deceased Sister. During the pandemic, an art history student researcher visited and explored [Sister Celestine Fischer's](#) work, especially the stained-glass windows surrounding St. Scholastica Chapel. Almost a century later, Sister Celestine's work continues to fascinate and lure both art lovers and spiritual seekers.

"...in memory of her."

Sister Mariella Hathorn, OSB (1939-2021)

Sister Mariella, the youngest of five children of George E. and Marcella Krieg Hathorn of St. Marys, PA, entered the Benedictine Sisters community at St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, PA in 1957. She made her first profession in 1959 and her final vows in 1962. Much of Sister Mariella's 28-year career in Pennsylvania education were spent in middle grades, though she also spent some years as principal. In 1987, Sister Mariella was elected Prioress by the Sisters of St. Joseph Monastery, serving two terms before taking her sabbatical in 1995 at St. Scholastica Monastery in Chicago. During these years at St. Scholastica, Sister Mariella discerned a call to transfer her stability to Chicago, and her acceptance at St. Scholastica Monastery was celebrated

October 24, 1998. Sister Mariella thrived in her first assignment as the Director of the St. Joseph Court Infirmary. Sister Mariella will be remembered for her adaptable personality and leadership experience along with her upbeat and positive spirit. Sister Mariella died unexpectedly on Sunday morning, February 7, 2021. The Mass of Resurrection for her was celebrated February 13, and she was interred at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois. She is mourned by her sisters, Jean Klaiber and Sally Lanzel, along with many nieces and nephews, and her Benedictine community. To read more about Sister Mariella's dedicated life, visit our news blog at www.osbchicago.org/news and look for her story posted on February 12th.





To our family, friends, oblates, partners, employees, patrons, supporters and alumnae:



Over the past several years, we as a Benedictine community, have engaged in an in-depth study and discernment of who we are as a community, where we want to be and what our future might look like. We engaged with the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and outside consultants to assist us in looking at our life and retirement needs, ministry and legacy considerations, and property concerns. It has been evident to us for some time, and affirmed by our consultants, that our building is too large for the size of our community. Our continued residence at our long-time home as it is, is not sustainable. As we age, it is also increasingly difficult for us to staff, maintain and oversee the operation of our campus.

We, like most religious communities today, recognize the need to right-size and modernize our housing. As it is, the monastery building is too large and expensive to maintain. Given the needs of our aging population, making the necessary improvements to our building is cost-prohibitive. We want to assure that our housing is appropriate and safe for us as we age with private bedrooms and bathrooms, with safe access, modern lighting, updated climate control and utility systems and other modern amenities that our nearly 120 year-old home lacks. Our goal is to stay together and live as a Benedictine community for as long as feasible, and we would like to remain in Rogers Park, preferably on our property.

Through generous friends and the rental income of the school building, our funding is on track for retirement, but not for building a new facility to match our community size, currently 24 members. Over time our expenditures have more often supported our ministry. Now we also need to tend to the housing of our Sisters, and continued good stewardship necessitates significant changes.

With counsel from NRRO and our consultants, we decided that to address our needs we would sell a parcel of land at the north end of our campus to a quality and experienced senior living residential developer who would build, own, and operate, a senior living facility. The building would include 80-100 modern, senior residential units. Our Sisters would live there in community. Remaining units would be available to other interested seniors, thus acknowledging the need for senior housing and affordable living units in the Rogers Park area.

With our real estate consultants, we have begun the process of assuring that proper zoning and land use classifications are in place to allow for this type of development. Initial meetings with the 49th Ward Alderwoman Maria Hadden and the City of Chicago have been positive. Alderwoman Hadden will schedule a neighborhood meeting (virtual) in June to introduce the proposed development to our neighbors. We look forward to their input.

Until now, we have intentionally gone about this work quietly. With the neighborhood meeting, our plans will become more public. We felt it important that you hear about this from us in advance of it becoming public. This will be a lengthy process and will likely take a few years until a building is built and open for residency. We ask and are thankful for your continued prayers and support as we plan our future and will continue to share ongoing developments with you.

Gratefully yours,

Sister Judith Murphy, OSB
Prioress

Oblate News

Different. Crazy. Horrible. Lonely. Separated. What a year! Who could have imagined a global pandemic would turn our world upside down?

Faithful *Sacro Speco* readers know this section typically profiles newsworthy updates about the lives of new and existing Oblates. Given the challenges of this extraordinary time, Communications Coordinator Siobhan O'Neill Meluso reached out to four active members of our community to see how they were faring. She spoke to Pueblo Oblate Abbey Algiene, Chicago-based Donna Ioppola, Sacramento based Seth Alexander, and Rogers Park based Barbara Wahler.

Their responses below are a testament to the healing power of Benedictine spirituality in the face of uncertainty. See for yourself how these Oblates embraced their call, helping them maintain their prayer life and stay connected.



Abbey Algiene

During this year-long pandemic, I have relied upon my deep daily prayer life; Zoom meetings, workshops/connections with my local Pueblo and Chicago Benedictine Oblates; a personal (three friends) weekly Bible Study based in my home, utilizing the videos of Dr. Scott Hahn-Parousia: the Bible and the Mass; local diocesan sponsored/led workshops; Benedictine-led LECTIO workshops and *La Colomba Zoom Readers Circle*; and online Catholic Mass worship (Daily/Sundays), as well as workshops to spiritually feed my soul during what could have been a bleak and lonely experience since I live alone.

My deepest gratitude to all of the Benedictine Oblates, most especially to those of the Saint Scholastica Monastery. Pueblo Oblates who inspired me to join include: John Chavez, Rose Guerrero, and my mentor/dear friend Phyllis King.

During this unprecedented time, I discovered how to be completely alone with my thoughts and my God for the first time ever in 65 years. I actually enjoyed the solitude which is a major discovery for me- being the oldest of nine children and a strong extrovert! This time of isolation helped me discover God's peace within. I am more faithful, more calm, more patient, more prayerful, more grateful, more thoughtful, more forgiving, more happy, and appreciative of all that life has to offer with fewer judgments.



Donna Ioppola

During the first few months of the pandemic, I was privileged to know a priest who was celebrating Mass on Zoom for family and friends. I found this was more like actually attending Mass than even the livestream from my parish since there was an actual "congregation" whose faces you could see as they responded to all of the prayers. In addition, I tried various forms of prayer including Lectio Divina, quiet contemplation, and liturgical music as I was trying to pray in different ways. I also discovered some authors (new to me, at least) who provided a pathway into spiritual reflection.

My Spiritual Director, some 38 years ago, suggested that I consider becoming part of a faith community outside of my parish. I wrote three letters (it was long before email) to the Third Order Dominicans, the Third Order Franciscans, and to the Benedictine community. Within days of mailing those letters I received a phone call from Sister Benita inviting me to meet with her and discuss the Oblate program. The other communities sent me some brochures by mail which lacked the personal touch I received from Sister Benita. At St. Scholastica's I found warm hospitality and a community in which I learned to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, a prayer that sustains me to this day.

Barbara Wahler

Over the past year, I've had to find creative ways to connect with Spirit and with my communities. Technology has allowed me to participate in worship in ways that I never expected, and certainly in more meaningful ways than I would have anticipated. I am grateful for regular online worship, celebrations, communion, our oblate meetings - even getting to know people at work I'd never seen outside of Zoom! I've spent much more time alone and so have spent more time reading. Probably the best gift, however, is how I have grown in my appreciation of silence- to stop doing and just be.

The short answer of who inspired me to become an Oblate is my mother, who went through (Lutheran) Diakonia at age 78. When she died in 2017, I read her copy of *The Cloister Walk*. At that time of my life, I was feeling pretty low and lonely and was looking for a way to connect with God and a spiritual community in a way I hadn't before. The oblate life/experience really seemed to call me! I did some research and found the Benedictine community in Rogers Park, where I've lived for most of my life.

I knew about St Scholastica (I had worked at Notre Dame for Girls), had been to the school on occasion, and had visited the labyrinth several times. To find an oblate community so close by seemed serendipitous. My Lutheran pastor was in the oblation process so I also spoke with him; then I met with Sister Benita and was delighted with her. I found out at my first oblate meeting that Dan Raven was also an oblate; I've known Dan for many years and even helped him build a labyrinth before. The more I learn about being Benedictine, the more I see that I've been pointed in this direction for many years, even for much of my life!



Seth Alexander

Spiritual sustenance has been challenging during the pandemic, especially since I'd recently moved back to California from Chicago. Praying with the psalms each morning has kept me grounded, but I had to be a little creative as well. I started making a short video series about saints which was a good spiritual outlet.

I was inspired to become an oblate by Nicole Sotelo, who used to work at the Monastery and Sister Benita. If it weren't for Nicole, I wouldn't have known about the oblates; she suggested I consider it. After that I had a talk with Sister Benita about it and began the formation process with her guidance.



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. www.osbchicago.org/oblates



“Less is best!”: The Art of Ikebana

By Sister Patti Cielinski, OSB

Sometime in 1987 Sr. Mary Benet McKinney, Prioress, asked that I be responsible for the flowers, as needed, for services in our Chapel. Fortunately, Sr. Agnes Kelly, an avid gardener, gave me a pamphlet advertising an American-style flower arranging class to be held weekly at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, IL. So, I began taking four classes on Wednesday mornings beginning on January 27, 1988.

As a follow-up to the initial classes, I attended four evening sessions at the Garden the following September, where I was introduced to Ikenobo Ikebana (the Japanese practice of flower arrangement) by Sensei (teacher) Ikka Nakashima. I was honored to have Sensei invite me to continue Ikebana classes in her home in Chicago where she also taught Japanese Classical Dance, Tea Ceremony, and Calligraphy.

My first formal Ikebana class was in October of 1989. We met in the evening. Students first removed their footwear in the hall before finding the way to the converted

classroom area; she welcomed us to learn. We bowed to Sensei when entering and leaving class. We sat at long tables, very quietly awaiting her individualized instructions. She handed us our flowers wrapped in newspaper; our name was written in Japanese. Sensei knew our skill level and which design needed improvement. For a long time, my Tuesdays were “blocked out” for Ikebana unless seasonal or Community schedules prevented me from attending.

Formal classes ceased in May of 2000, but being in her presence for nearly twelve years has left an indelible mark on my heart and how I view nature and flower arranging – even her birthday was February 14th, Valentine’s Day, a holiday known for giving flowers. Upon her death, we, her students and friends, celebrated her rich life on September 6, 2014 with the traditional Tea Ceremony and orchestrated flower arranging. We gathered again five years later on her anniversary to commemorate her death and her life that touched us so deeply.

I suppose it wasn't too surprising that I took to Ikebana so easily and profoundly. I grew up gardening in our Chicago backyard and continued when we moved to Niles. While attending high school and college, I worked in the Sears' Pet and Garden shop and I knew then I was very much in my element. Funnily enough, my trips to the library for college work always included a stack of gardening books in my other hand!

I liked arranging flowers when called upon, but I had no training until I attended those classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden, followed by weekly Ikebana classes at Sensei's home on Carmen Avenue in Chicago. I'm so grateful for these opportunities to grow into my element with nature in its simplest form.

How has Ikebana impacted my life?

Sensei taught us to look up to the sun for growth and nourishment as the flowers do. "Less is best!" Ikebana emphasizes the beauty and uniqueness of each piece of nature used in the design – every element should be visible and complementary to the whole. "Less is best" makes that possible. In fact, each flower, each branch, each leaf is different and must be noted when choosing them for the arrangement.

Our Monastery gardens provide a fresh array of flowers, branches, and leaves for Sunday's Ikebana to be placed in front of the ambo. As I walk the grounds early each Sunday, searching for treasures, I "hear" them shouting: "Pick me...pick me!" Using the "Less is best" approach limits what I will cut; it's as if nature knows this is her chance to augment our worship. The Ikebana is prepared in the sacristy and placed before the ambo long before the Sisters arrive. I am at peace and quieted as I comb the gardens and then use all I have learned to create a piece. We can then watch through the week as this "living art" evolves – buds open, flowers die, leaves curl – it has life / it IS life!

Although Ikebana styles have evolved through the centuries, I was schooled in only three arrangement styles. I favor Shoka-the Living with Flowers-design, composed of three primary elements, plus "helpers." They are: Shin, Soe, and Tai with very specific measurements for each piece used.

Viewed from the front, and positioned in a wide and low-lipped vase, it appears that the elements of Shoka have one source because they are meticulously lined up – front to back on a kenzan (a flat heavy metal holder with vertical needles on which branches and stems can be impaled). Viewed from the side though, it is obvious that the branches

and stems are separate and standing on their own.

For me, this design symbolizes life. We derive our strength from God – the source – yet we, like the branches and stems, are distinctively created by God; no two are alike.

My approach to arranging materials to enhance our Chapel now has a dimensional quality to it. No longer are the palms for Palm Sunday flat and upright. I learned to enliven each by positioning them at angles and even mixing varieties.

When I "throw together" the Fall / Thanksgiving décor in the Chapel for the Donors Appreciation Brunch, the vast variety of pieces, though no longer living, have "new" life because each piece is carefully placed so that it will be noticed for its own sake. I feel like it's a game of "Pickup Sticks" because they rest and rely on each other for support.

One concluding memory is that as I was in the

midst of this new experience with flower arranging, "opportunity knocked" and several funeral homes welcomed my visits for the floral pieces that would have otherwise been discarded. Our Monastery back porch was likened to a European flower market because I took the arrangements apart and filled bucket upon bucket with like flowers and greens. Our Sisters, personnel of the Academy, and our Monastery employees were invited to help themselves to the fresh and abundant beauty. These were not flowers that I needed for arrangements but an outgrowth of my introduction to Ikebana. I was overjoyed to witness their display of enthusiasm as each carried an armful of nature for her room, a classroom, an office, or home.

Senno Ikenobo, mid-16th century master of flower arranging, taught, "Not only beautiful flowers but also buds and withered flowers have life, and each has its own beauty. By arranging flowers with reverence, one refines oneself." Arranging flowers and finding beauty in flowers- these are linked to a heart that values nature and cares for other people. This is the spirit of Ikenobo Ikebana."

*"For me, this design
symbolizes life. We derive
our strength from God -
the source - yet we, like the
branched stems, are
distinctly created by God;
no two are alike"*

-Sister Patti Cielinski, OSB

Ikebana photos provided by Sister Patti Cielinski, OSB. Sister Patti entered the community almost 40 years ago, refining her green thumb through learning and mastering the art of Ikebana.



Biden Appointee and Public Health Expert: '82 SSA Chicago Alumna Leads a Life of Service

St. Scholastica Chicago '82 alumna, Julie Morita, MD, Executive Vice-President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and former Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health, was "shocked and honored" in November 2020 when then President-elect Joe Biden appointed her to his Covid-19 task force. Along with a diverse group of fellow task force members, she advised the transition team from the election until the inauguration.

In a recent interview with Communications Coordinator Siobhan O'Neill Meluso, Dr. Morita credits her task force appointment with her local and national public health experience. In addition to her extensive public health emergency expertise with H1N1 and vaccine distribution, she's spent years advocating for equity amongst vulnerable communities. "It was a really rewarding and humbling experience working with the group during an intense period of time," recalls Dr. Morita. She felt pride seeing the task force's recommendations reflected in the policies and responses from day one of President Biden's term.

Raised in Edgewater and a product of Chicago Public Schools before her time at St. Scholastica, Dr. Morita fondly remembers how impressed her second-generation Japanese American parents were with the all-girls high school and its welcoming environment. She describes "a strong sense of community within the school. I felt the important sense of doing good through the many volunteer opportunities. It wasn't just about academics but being part of a community. There were always opportunities to give back and to do service. And I felt like that was a very rewarding part of my life. In college, I didn't do as much. But then in my career, as

a physician, service to others has always been fulfilling and that's why I ended up in Pediatrics and Public Health, both service-oriented."

Looking back, Dr. Morita remembers how theology teacher [Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB](#) encouraged and supported her. In fact, when Mototsugu and Betty Morita asked if it was a problem that their daughter was not Catholic, the sisters assured the Moritas that St. Scholastica welcomed students of all denominations and backgrounds. Dr. Morita excelled and flourished during her high school career. In 1982, Dr. Morita delivered the Valedictory address, a speech she still remembers today. "My class got in a lot of trouble," she explains. "In my speech, I admitted we weren't roses, but we were more like dandelions—still pretty flowers. By the end of my talk, I made an analogy about dandelion seeds that you can blow and scatter away. While a dandelion is not the rosiest or most beautiful flower, its scattered seeds would let us spread our work and do good in other places."

The sense of service Dr. Morita cultivated at St. Scholastica began with her parents, Japanese internment camp detainees during World War II. In an April 20, 2020 Chicago Tribune Op-Ed, Dr. Morita wrote, "They remained stoic and largely reserved in the decades that followed the war." It wasn't until 9/11 that Dr. Morita's parents spoke out against injustice. Like them, Dr. Morita cannot remain quiet given the recent rise of anti-Asian hate. She calls racism a virus. "From a health perspective, racism leads to poor health outcomes, mentally and physically. It's just wrong and preventable."

Today, Dr. Morita works with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), focusing on structural racism and its impact on health equity. Her important life of service reflects that scattered dandelion seed from years ago—work that benefits countless individuals and honors the values instilled at St. Scholastica.

SSA Chicago '82 Alumna, Julie Morita, MD (left) is pictured with her daughter Megan Trick, her son Jake Trick, and her husband Bill Trick.



Join us for
Reunion 2021

September 18-19
www.osbchicago.org/reunion

In Memoriam

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

Elaine Krieter Engh (1942), twin sister of Angela Reynolds (1942) and sister of Shirley Weber (1949)
Catherine "Terry" Trapp (1943), sister-in-law of deceased Sister Joanna Trapp (1945), mother of Peggy Cuniff (1969), Cathy Curran (1977) and Juliane Pearson (1987)
Donna Mae Calkins Forrest (1945), mother of Maureen Fisher (1974)
Lois Kohl Glab (1945)
Sally Kearns Hake (1947), sister of deceased Patricia Warrick (1941), deceased Mary Richards (1943), and deceased Joan Ciavarella (1945)
Ellen Hennelly Cagney (1948), mother of Betsy Waller (1971) and Terry Theisen (1972)
William "Bill" Sheffield, husband of deceased Jean Blake (1950), father of Catherine Brosio (1972) and Margaret Sheffield (1975)
Mary Oldershaw Lerps (1951), sister of Sandra Oldershaw (1960)
Patrick E. Rooney, husband of Joanne Newman Rooney (1951)
David H. Radler, Jr., son of Virginia Radler (1952) and brother of Katherine Radler (1986)
Bruno Francis Roti, husband of Marie Bornhofen Roti (1952) and father of Mary Ann Roti (1979)
Maureen Gibbons Sadowski (1953)
Doris Votava Heinz Wendling (1954), sister of Betty Votava Van De Venter (1958)
Janet Wagner Kies (1956)
Mary Minwegen McManama (1956)
Patricia Fox Smith (1956)
Phil Harrington, brother of Mary Ann Harrington (1959)
Patrick J. Barry, husband of Patricia Wisely Barry (1960) and brother of Catherine Barry Sloan (1957)
Peter Wroblewski, brother of Donna Dehnert (1958) and Kristine Wroblewski (1963)
Laura Radabaugh, daughter of Mary Willis (1959)
John Oldershaw, brother of deceased Mary Oldershaw Lerps (1951) and Sandra Oldershaw (1960)
Marlene Barranco Schurr (1960)

Dr. James H. Babler, brother of Susan Powers (1961), Maribeth Babler (1964) and Pamela Babler (1969)
Cathryn Lynn Crane (1962), sister of Gael Crane (1958), Sue Crowley (1959) and Julie (Moe) Crane (1964)
Megan K. Alicoate, daughter of Patricia Lupton Maloney (1964)
Eileen "Noonie" McGuire (1964), sister of Sheila McGuire (1954), Kathleen Dawson (1954), and Ellen Keane (1958)
Denise Denten Rodgers (1964)
Mary Pat Arnold, sister of Ann Seidl (1965), Ginny Seidl Partaker (1967), and Peggie Seidl Kafka (1968)
Barbara Bernacchi (1966), mother of Emily Stich (1997)
Ted Cunningham, brother of Mary Cunningham (1966), Patricia Rice (1968) and Kathleen Kramp (1972)
JoAnn M. Streich Asplund Kurth (1967), sister of Susan Streich Boldt (1964)
Michael Steven Patte, son of Kathleen Altieri Patte (1967)
Cynthia J. Halpin Fairchild (1968) (*3/15/2016)
Paula Plomin Goering Brady (1969), sister of Carole Winter (1962)
Peggy Ann Blade Cella (1969), sister of Patricia Prendergast (1960) and Pamela Berk (1963)
Richard Donoval, Jr., brother of Kathryn Donoval (1969) and Nancy Donoval (1978)
Caroline Hattenberger, daughter of Mary Ellen Davajon Quinn (1969)
Meredith "Mimi" Schwar (1969)
Sheila Buckley Pennington (1970)
Patricia Abel Giannini (1970), sister of Geraldine Abel Illy (1963)
John Weidenbach, husband of Betty Bappert Weidenbach (1970)
Paul Jewett, son of Louise Setzler Jewett (1972)
Barbara W. Isaacson, mother of Anne Prucnal (1973), Ellen Lowell (1974), Roberta Isaacso (1977),

Kathleen Isaacson (1978), and Barbara Demos (1979)
Barbara Maddex Rankin (1973)
Denise Yuell Thomas (1976) (*1/7/2018)
Walter Sowa, father of Carol Sowa Kash (1977)
Diana Garcia Asencio (1980)
Maria Demos (1980)
Mildred Burns, SSA Staff member, mother of Mary Sue Mackey (1982), Mary Anne Burns (1982) and Mary Beth Burns (1985)
Geraldine Axiom, mother of Michaeline Burke (1983), Laurel Kohl (1986), Katherine Sipp (1991), and Deena Gibson (1992)
Carlos Fernando Gonzalez, father of Marianela Gonzalez (1984)
Ann Andino, mother of Cynthia Repole (1987)
Richard J. Schaefer, father of Marguerite Cole (1984), Monica Brand (1987) and Valerie Miller (1989)
Maureen Renee MacLennan (1994)
China-Li Nystrom Smith (1994)
Audrey Khopotso Nchee, mother of Mamello Tekateka (2001)
Donovan Edward Conlon, brother of Katie Conlon (2003)

St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

Karml Thompson Blumanhourst (1980)
Cristina Araujo (1990)

The above represents notices received November 2, 2020- June 11, 2021.

** Denotes that death was prior to November 2, 2020 but we received notice of their death in the last several months.*



Karla Huffman '01



Rebecca Jackson Artis '95



Scholastics To the Rescue by Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB

*I*t all started on the porch.

Late last June, after working at home for three months, I needed to get out of my basement office. The Center for Life and Learning (CLL) of Fourth Presbyterian Church, the educational outreach program for older adults in which I work, was up and running on Zoom, which meant that I spent most of my time staring at a computer screen. (Still do.) So when I found a task that could be done somewhere else (in this case, signing letters), I took it.

As I sat there, doing my relatively mundane task and watching traffic on Ridge Boulevard, my mind could do other things. In the light of George Floyd's murder and the racial reckoning that had begun in its wake, I was reflecting that I, as director, was in a position to do more to make the CLL an anti-racist program (in other words, a program that is not only "against" racism but one that actively makes choices to provide equitable opportunities). As I thought about the talented instructors who teach for the CLL, I was not surprised to realize that they were all white. Since part of my work is curriculum planning and hiring, I saw that I had a place to start. I could begin by hiring some BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) folks to teach Special Topic classes (short courses – three to eight sessions – which take a more focused look at a topic) or present stand-alone lectures. What seemed daunting was how to find teachers and speakers. Certainly there were plenty of people "out there," but they did not know me or the program, and I was already behind in planning what would become an entire year of virtual programming.

That's when the Holy Spirit did what the Holy Spirit does.

Between 1991 and 2013 I had taught hundreds of bright, interesting women of color at St. Scholastica Academy. And, of course, I knew of many more who had been at SSA before me. They were out there in the world, doing good work, and I felt sure they had stories to tell and lessons to teach. Because of the pandemic, they did not have to live in Chicago to teach for the CLL; they could "zoom in" from anywhere. So the search began.

By the time this program year concludes in June, six Scholastics will have generously shared their gifts of perspective and expertise with CLL participants. Please let me introduce you to them!

Karla Huffman '01

Karla kicked off the grand experiment in September by giving a Midday Lecture on "How to Be a Cultural Influencer." In her presentation Karla, an independent film producer and yoga instructor, introduced her audience to the idea of supporting important causes or making a living by using one's voice on social media, through consumer choices, or in personal networks. Karla says that this experience was "exciting" because it could help her grandmother's generation (the same demographic as CLL participants) "respect us Gen Y and Z-ers a little better."

Rebecca Jackson Artis '95

A comedian and podcaster, Rebecca taught Black Narrative Voices, a class which explored diverse voices of Black American writers from James Baldwin to Katoya Flemming in the fall and then, in the winter term, Black Narrative Voices II. Participants raved about her class, saying things like, "[Rebecca] is a force and we're all just in awe of her frankness and honesty." Rebecca says that "teaching at CLL was an enriching and fun experience. The students' openness and vulnerability made it such a family atmosphere and established a progressive community. I will always honor my experience at CLL."



Mamello Tekateka '01



Lakisha Moore McFadden '01



Olga Gutierrez '99



Gayle Porter '63

Mamello Tekateka '01

Mamello (or Mo, as she is known to most Scholasticans) recently started her own healthcare consulting firm, PATIENTcE, in addition to her work as a researcher for the Joint Commission. Her three-session class, Research-Based Total Wellness, was an important way for participants to examine their health holistically. When asked what the class was like for her, Mo reflects that “Teaching in the CLL was a beautiful experience. I am passionate about health and I got a great opportunity to talk about it amongst a class that was curious, knowledgeable about the subject and engaged, even though it was a remote class. I felt at home. My class was also very kind. I look forward to the next opportunity to teach in the CLL.”

Lakisha Moore McFadden '01

Director of Early Learning and Education at the Centers for New Horizons, Lakisha also gave a Midday Lecture entitled “Our Most Vulnerable Citizens: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Urban early Childhood Education.” In it she detailed her work on the south and west sides of Chicago and how the pandemic affected families living in poverty and the already-challenged early learning workforce. One participant said afterwards: “I compliment Lakisha on sharing a lot of information in a calm way which highlighted the struggles, needs, and the creative ways she and her staff are problem solving, constantly, and then doing it again!”

Olga Gutierrez '99

Recently named by *Noticieros* as one of “40 Under 40 To Watch,” Olga also presented a Midday Lecture on Apple’s role in education. Olga discussed how, in her position as Strategic Initiatives Manager at Apple, she helps bridge the gaps between government, education, and technology.

Gayle Porter '63

Well-known for her prestigious roles at Johns Hopkins and Howard University, and the development of Prime-Time Sisters’ Circles, Gayle is a licensed clinical psychologist and co-director of the Gaston and Porter Health Improvement Center. She taught a two-session class called “We Need a Revolution: Taking Charge of Our Emotional and Physical Health,” designed around input solicited from CLL members this past winter.

There is certainly much more work to do in making the Center for Life and Learning a more diverse and inclusive community. But the work has begun, thanks to the generous and creative involvement of these six Scholasticans. (And now, from my beautiful new office on the third floor of the monastery, with a window facing our stunning backyard, I’m in a great position to “see” what has to be done!)



Sister Susan Quaintance, OSB from her third floor monastery home office.



'55 Alumna Sister Melinda Roper, MM Recognizes the Sacred Space in the Rainforest

From growing up in the prairie land of Park Ridge, IL during World War II, SSA Chicago '55 alumna and Maryknoll Missionary Sister Melinda Roper has called the Darién rainforest of East Panama home for over thirty-five years. Prior to her current mission work near Santa Fe, Panama, Sister Melinda was President of the Maryknoll Missionary Sisters of St. Dominic from 1978 to 1984 and missioned to Mexico and Guatemala before that. Having never been involved with anything remotely related to Administration, Sister Melinda and five other sisters were elected to lead the congregation as a team. Tragedy struck in December of 1980 when four churchwomen were murdered in El Salvador; two of them were Maryknoll sisters. Last December 2, 2020 marked the 40-year anniversary of this catastrophic time.

"The deaths kept happening. It was my constant companion during the six years that I was the President. And I think after the six years, I said, all I want to do is disappear," shared Sister Melinda in a recent interview with Communications Coordinator, Siobhan O'Neill Meluso. Forty years later, Sister Melinda remembers taking some time with her parents in Park Ridge after her term as President, visiting the St. Scholastica Chapel with each trip home, prior to finding her current home in Darién, Panama.

Sister Melinda fondly remembers being a student at St. Scholastica and as "one of the best choices of my life." She is grateful for learning how to read, think, be, and feel. When she was a junior at St. Scholastica, Sister Melinda finally got the nerve to ask [Sister Mary James](#) about the life of a Sister and how it works. After several meetings, Sister Melinda realized she didn't want to be a Benedictine, and to her surprise, Sister Mary James sensed that too and found a Maryknoll magazine and gave it to her to read.

Sister Melinda felt called as a Maryknoll Missionary but felt nothing but support and enthusiasm from the Benedictines ever since. "I think Benedictine spirituality is part of my very being and a lot of it has to do with the Chapel. Every time I go to Chicago, I just sit in the Chapel. The Christ figure goes way beyond the Chapel walls to embrace the whole," shares Sister Melinda.

"Panama is the biological bridge of the Americas"—all life forms from the north moving south and those from the south migrating north meet in Panama. Sister Melinda lives in a rainforest and has learned to ask permission of the forest to live there and to not be too invasive. "I'm trying to live *Laudato Si* and share that spirit as well as a lot of the activities that flow from *Laudato Si* (Pope Francis' Encyclical on Care for Our Common Home the Earth)," says Sister Melinda.

"Every Sunday, we go out to one or two small communities to do a celebration of the Word. It's based on the readings from Sunday, but then because it's not a Mass, subject to all kinds of conditioning, we're free to do our prayer; our liturgy where one of the sisters works with migrants," says Sister Melinda. Migrants from Asia, Africa, and South America have an entry point in Darién, where there are no roads and it takes days or weeks to walk through the rainforest.

From renewable and alternative energy to organic farming, Sister Melinda and those living in Darién are trying to conserve the rainforest. "All of these things are, for me, a living of our faith. Because if one recognizes that all has its origin and potential in our creator God, one preserves and conserves it. We're living within God's temple. Much like St. Scholastica's chapel, here in Darién we are surrounded by a living work of art or living mural within this sacred space which is sacred because God is present."

Prayer Ministry

We remember you in our daily prayers.

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests
from November 2, 2020 - June 11, 2021

Memorials

[In memory of Megan K. Alicoate](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Joanne Kalnitz

Siobhan O'Neill Meluso and Edgar Andres Meluso

[In memory of Jerry Anderson](#)

Jackie LeSanche

[In memory of Ann Andino](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Cristina Araujo](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Mary Pat Arnold](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Diana Garcia Asencio](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Geraldine Axium](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Dr. James H. Babler](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Tom Bacino](#)

Bill and Ellen Wirth

[In memory of Patrick J. Barry](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Judy Beaumont](#)

Judith Lee

[In memory of Barbara Bernacchi](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Christine Schweih-Defoe

[In memory of Ceil Ozog Bialas](#)

Barb and Jim Goepel

[In memory of Margaret and Frank Bishop](#)

Julie Brown

[In memory of Geraldine Yoxey Blazich](#)

Janet Blazich Bryant and David Bryant

Eileen and Michael Deverich

[In memory of Karml Thompson Blumanhourst](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Deacon Michael A. Bowen](#)

Linda DeRosa

[In memory of Margaret Schorsch Boyle](#)

Mary Schorsch Finnan

[In memory of Paula Plomin Goering Brady](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Clint Brown](#)

Julie Brown

[In memory of Mildred Burns](#)

Judith Alexander

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Kathleen and Paul Blahunka

Susan and Jim Guibert

Jackie LeSanche

John and Clara Littau

James Mackey and Nancy Wilcox

Mary and William Mitchell

Colleen Mulligan

Wanda and Brian Pabich

Beth Patela

Catherine and Harry Riley

Diane Voelker

[In memory of Sue Porazinski Bush](#)

Mary Rycroft

[In memory of Ellen Hennelly Cagney](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Robert Carlos](#)

Eileen Moorman

[In memory of Peggy Ann Blade Cella](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Laywood Chan](#)

Yvonne Y.F. Chan

[In memory of Dorothy Clesen](#)

Barbara and Harry Pepoon, Jr.

[In memory of Donovan Edward Conlon](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Bill Conrardy](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Marilyn Baer Considine](#)

Sheila Brannen

[In memory of Joseph Cotteleer](#)

Marilyn Cotteleer

[In memory of Cathryn Lynn Crane](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of James T. Crean](#)

Sister Frances Crean, RSM

[In memory of Jeanne Crossen](#)

Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

[In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Crowley](#)

Tan Tran and Phuong Hoang

[In memory of Pat and Patty Crowley](#)

The Chicago Community Trust

[In memory of Richard Cullen](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Ted Cunningham](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Wayne E. Delahanty](#)

Bob and Kathie Anderson

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Maria Demos](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Barbara De Smet](#)

Harry De Smet

[In memory of Teresa J. Doherty](#)

Margaret Healy

[In memory of Richard Donovan](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Billy Earner](#)

Sister Kathleen Maloney, OSB

[In memory of John Elia](#)

Joanne Spata

[In memory of Elaine Krieter Engh](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Shirlanne Reynolds

[In memory of Cynthia J. Halpin Fairchild](#)

John Fairchild

[In memory of David Felton](#)

Madeline Felton

[In memory of Carolyn Fields](#)

Wendy Sin

[In memory of Elizabeth Fong](#)

Lori Fong

[In memory of Donna Mae Calkins Forrest](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Patricia Langelund Funk](#)

Sharon and Larry Barr

[In memory of Sister Joan Gannon, OSB](#)

Katherine Marchese

[In memory of Katherine Gersick](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Martin Gersick](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Patricia Abel Giannini](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Lois Kohl Glab](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Matthew Glavich](#)

Agnes Glavich

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

Suzanne M. Walsh

[In memory of Margaret Glimco](#)

Joanne Spata

[In memory of Carlos F. Gonzalez](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Marianela Gonzalez

[In memory of Sally Kearns Hake](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Jerry Hart](#)

Bill and Joan McGeean

[In memory of Mariella Hathorn, OSB](#)

Sandra Assalone

Jeanne and John Dippolo III

Marguerita Jung

Mary Jo and David Lancel

Pam and Joe Lancel

Sarah Lancel

Prayer Ministry - November 2, 2020 - June 11, 2021

Jeanne M. Klaiber and family
Kathlyn Myers

[In memory of Phil Harrington](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB

[In memory of Caroline Hattenberger](#)

Mary Ellen Davajon Quinn

[In memory of Sister Jeanne Hegarty, OSB](#)

Marilee Hegarty

Michael Hegarty and Kristi Arellano

[In memory of Marilyn Hennessy](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Sister Joan Hentges, OSB](#)

Rose Higgs

Pauline McCaffrey

[In memory of Gonzalo Hernandez](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of William Hervoy](#)

William Ivantic

[In memory of Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, OSB](#)

Mary and Michael Cole

[In memory of Anne and Paul Hinton](#)

Susan and Paul Gruebnaue

[In memory of deceased members of Hoang and Tran family](#)

Tan Tran and Phuong Hoang

[In memory of Virginia Hoynes](#)

Judith Borchers

[In memory of Lorraine Huelsman](#)

Dorothy Rosch

[In memory of Chuck Hughes](#)

Sister Kathleen Maloney, OSB

[In memory of Barbara W. Isaacson](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Ellen and Daniel Lowell

[In memory of Ruth Ivantic](#)

William Ivantic

[In memory of Kevin Michael Jennings](#)

Kate Ehrmann Jennings

[In memory of Paul Jewett](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Judith Borchers

[In memory of Robert Johnson](#)

Joanne Spata

[In memory of Phyllis Kafka](#)

Judith Bartels

[In memory of Anton Kaplan](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Frances Kaplan](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Marshall V. Kearney IV](#)

Mary Corrigan Noonan

[In memory of Katherine Neumayer Kelly](#)

Katherine Goeddel

[In memory of Janet Wagner Kies](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

LuAnne Feik

[In memory of Stephen Klim](#)

Kathleen Maloney, OSB

[In memory of Walter and Gena Kozlowski](#)

Cynthia and John Bachmann

[In memory of Sister Hildebard \(Justina\) Kunz](#)

Michael Surdyk

[In memory of Sister Juliana \(Gertrude\) Kunz](#)

Michael Surdyk

[In memory of JoAnn M. Asplund Kurth](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Mary Oldershaw Lerps](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Julie Lizak](#)

Ellen and Bill Galush

[In memory of Maureen Renee MacLennan](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Lidia Mancera](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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

Darlene and Robert Bailey

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Paula Hansen

Zachary Hoffman

Marguerita (Maggie) Jung

Sheila McGuire

[In memory of Mary Hereley Marren](#)

Joseph Marren

[In memory of Catherine McGovern](#)

Peter and Sean McGovern

[In memory of Eileen "Noonie" McGuire](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary Ann Harrington

[In memory of Tom McKenzie](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Mary Alice Minwegen](#)

McManama

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Nancy Butler Slagg

[In memory of Karen McManus](#)

Ed and Beth Zonsius

[In memory of Mary Milne](#)

Margaret and Dominic Caminiti

[In memory of Anthony Morizzo](#)

Joanne Spata

[In memory of Bren Murphy](#)

Judith Borchers

[In memory of Caroline Murray](#)

Suzanne Serviss

[In memory of Audrey Khopotso Nchee](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Marion Byrne Needham](#)

Mary Needham Turek

[In memory of Joseph Nemanich](#)

Cindy Foran

William Ivantic

Vivian Nemanich

Albina J. Opeka

Marcia Passi

Laura Pierro of ESP Associates, Inc.

[In memory of Marian Nespeca](#)

Wayne and Margaret Wagner

[In memory of Mary Noah](#)

Seraphine Wang

[In memory of Terrence J. O'Brien](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Catherine and William Eggebrecht

Sister Jane Smith, OSB

[In memory of Claire O'Keefe](#)

Judith Borchers

[In memory of John Oldershaw](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Sister Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB](#)

Roberta and Craig Bieganski

Suzanne and Ronald Bordenard

Sister Kathy Brazda

Kathy and Jeff Caudill

Thomas and Mary Gibbons

Mary Ann Harrington

Betty and Joseph O'Ryan

Kathleen and John O'Ryan

Norman and Kathleen Pater

Michael and Michelle Rastatter

Joanne Spata

[In memory of B. Pagan and A. Macaltao](#)

Laura Cruz

[In memory of Marie Palello](#)

Joanne Spata

[In memory of Michael Steven Patte](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mimi and Glen Wherfel

[In memory of Marilyn Miller Peck](#)

John W. Peck

[In memory of Sheila Buckley Pennington](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Helen Perse](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Marc A. Perse](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Richard \(Dick\) Perse](#)

Margaret Cullen

[In memory of Loïc Pin](#)

The Lyon family

[In memory of Anne Potempa](#)

Kathy and Jeff Caudill

[In memory of Julie McHugh Quattrochi](#)

Ginny Serb Cox

[In memory of Laura Radabaugh](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary M. Willis

[In memory of David H. Radler, Jr.](#)

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

[In memory of Dale Raef](#)

Cheryl Ann Love

[In memory of Barbara Maddex Rankin](#)

Prayer Ministry - November 2, 2020 - June 11, 2021

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Denise Suzanne Denten Rodgers](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Patrick E. Rooney](#)
Laura Anderson
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Ginger Benning (W.O.W. Group)
Barb and Tom Blickhahn
Kathleen Callaci
Nancy Chalex (W.O.W. Group)
Bill and Natalie Lake Conrardy
Lorraine Durka
Maria and Timothy Faerber
Marykay Foy
Jerrol and Mary Lou Leitner
Jean E. Lytle
John and Julie Marchese
Ann Metzger
Carol Montgomery (W.O.W. Group)
Heidi and Michael Mullane
Ly Nguyen
Carol and Paul Pankros
Ashley and Joan Ross
Susan Ryder
Therese Schott
Mary Seroczynski
Judith and Allan Utendorf
Linda Vass
Mary Walker (W.O.W. Group)
Carol and Joseph Ward
Sheila Wilson
[In memory of Bruno Roti](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Maureen Gibbons Sadowski](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Cecile and Jim Mikulski
[In memory of Sister Johnette Sawyer, OSB](#)
Kathleen Beaulieu and James Peterson
Matthew Gallegos
Marilyn Graybill
Mary Ann Harrington
Rose Higgs
[In memory of Richard J. Schaefer](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Thomas A. Schermerhorn](#)
Patricia Schermerhorn
[In memory of Sister Delores Schorsch, OSB](#)
Judith Palmer
[In memory of deceased members of the Schorsch family](#)
Judith Palmer
[In memory of Meredith "Mimi" Schwar](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Marlene Barranco Schurr](#)
Mary Diane Simpson
[In memory of Sister Ann Sharp, OSB](#)
Janet Furman

Marguerite Heinz
Marilyn and Julius Kolas
Tom Sharp
[In memory of William "Bill" Sheffield](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Catherine Broscio
[In memory of Sister Mary Beatrice Singler, OSB](#)
Richard Singler
[In memory of Bernard Sir](#)
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Albach
Erin Baker
Jonathan Barnett
Allan and Lorie Bartel
Paula Burgess
Amie Caban
Robert Cull
The Driver Family, Jeff, Mary, Dara and Brenna
Jill Factor
Sean Foley
Dolores Furlong
Guggenheim Partners (Leeann Morgan)
Joseph Hester, Jr.
Penelope and Homer Holland
Thomas Irvin
James and Janet Kennedy
Robert Lofaso – Guggenheim Partners
Lori LoPinto
Peter O. Lawson-Johnston
Margaret Lyons
Joan and William McGeean
Nancy McNally
Richard and Karen Michaels
Byron Scott MinerD
Constance Mottley
Frank Neill
Anne Nelson
Cole Nelson
Victor Nelson
Warner Nelson
Paula O'Connor
James O'Hara
Joanne Prinz
Mary and Timothy Rowan
Adrian Sakowicz
Arleen Shetler
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Simon
Lauren Siwinski
Marlene and Thomas Slager
William Springer
Chuck and Peggi Sturm
Stephanie Tomecek
Becky Toulon
James Toulon
Uncle Pete Ministries
James Viola
Todd Vukovich
Walter Family Foundation

Dan Webb
[In memory of China-Li Nystrom Smith](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Donald Smith](#)
Chris and Maureen Dabovich
[In memory of Patricia Fox Smith](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Sophie Smith](#)
Patricia Hartmann
[In memory of souls of all orphans](#)
Tan Tran and Phuong Hoang
[In memory of Walter Sowa](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Steven Spencer](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Juliann Kaspari Stanich](#)
Joanne Furlong Schutt
[In memory of Martin Stanton](#)
Wayne and Peg Wagner
Judith Zonsius, OSB
[In memory of Bill Stenberg](#)
Mary Eckel
[In memory of Butch Sutton](#)
Wayne and Margaret Wagner
[In memory of Peter Tinh](#)
Tan Tran and Phuong Hoang
[In memory of Denise Yueill Thomas](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Catherine "Terry" Trapp](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Christine and Philip Coudret
Marianne and Jim Pearson
[In memory of Sister Joanna Trapp, OSB](#)
David McCarty
[In memory of Stan Uroda](#)
Judith Borchers
[In memory of Mary Freeman Vandenbroucke](#)
Marguerite V. Heinz
[In memory of Valerie Varnes](#)
Maribeth Babler
[In memory of Darryl and Margery Wahler](#)
Barbara Wahler
[In memory of James Weber](#)
Jean Weber
[In memory of John Weidenbach](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Doris Votava Heinz Wendling](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of deceased members of Wieland and Sullivan families](#)
Maurice and Ann Sullivan
[In memory of Sister Miriam Wilson, OSB](#)
Marcia Clark
Ann Marie Dunlap
[In memory of Rolland Wilson](#)
Patricia Hartmann
[In memory of Dale Winslow](#)

Prayer Ministry - November 2, 2020 - June 11, 2021

Don Winslow

In memory of Sister Marilyn Wolfgram, OSB

Elsie and Keith McDonald

In memory of Peter Wroblewski

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Louis J. Zember

Patricia and Raymond Erjavec

In memory of Sister Mildred Zember, OSB

Patricia and Raymond Erjavec

Special Occasions

In honor of Seth JA Alexander

Christine Chase

In honor of Jim Berger of Chicago Waldorf School

Katherine Rogers

In honor of Jim Berger on his birthday

Jim Berger (son)

In honor of birthdays for Aunt Barbara

Zonsius, Eddie Zonsius, Tony Ingraffia, Kenny Bartels, and John Olen

Jeanne Stanton

In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB

Susan and Raymond Kehm

In honor of Sister Patricia Coughlin, OSB

Denise Coughlin

In honor and support of Sister Patricia

Coughlin's Dream Workshop

Anita Thies

In honor of our 50th wedding anniversary

Ron and Barbara Gier

In honor of Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB on her birthday

John Brady

In honor of Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB

Sharon P. Wang

In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB

Carol Czapar

Edward Finnegan

Mary Beth Self

Rudolph Unger

In honor of Josephine Krasovic on her 90th birthday

Agnes Glavich

In honor of Helen Jendryk Lyon on

Mother's Day

The Lyon Daughters, Mary Jo, Nancy, Carrie, Ellen, Donna, Laurie, and Lisa

In honor of Sister Kathleen Maloney, OSB

Eugenia and Gilbert Krebill

In honor of Sister Judith Murphy, OSB and

Eileen and Al Samuelson

Michael Kelly

In honor of Patricia Minwegen Aijian

Mark M. Aijian

In honor of Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB

for all her good works

Lorraine and Bob Henry

In honor of Diane Murphy 1970 and

Milissa Murphy Larsen 1977

Kathleen Murphy Anderson

In honor of Emmanuel Noah

Seraphine Wang

In honor of Joanne Rooney

Carol and Joseph Ward

In honor of Patrick and Joanne Rooney

Patrick and Kathleen Rooney

In honor of Sister Jane Smith, OSB

Marian and Timothy Briggs

In honor of the fine teachers from Queen of All Saints 1947 and 1949

and St. Scholastica 1953

Mary Jane and James Kenny

In honor of Jane Warren

Philip Warren and family

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.



The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
invite you to rejoice with them
in prayer

70th Jubilee of Profession

Sister Benita Coffey, OSB

Sister Mary Frances Schermerhorn, OSB

***Deepest gratitude to the Bernard Heerey
Family Foundation for their generous
support of our Elder Sisters!***

Other ways to Partner with us in Mission

Pray for the Benedictine Community

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

Become a Monthly Donor

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

Matching Gifts

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

Donor-Advised Fund DAF

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

IRA Charitable Rollover

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

Appreciated Stock

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

Memorial Gifts

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

Memorial Card

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

Celebration or In Honor of Someone Special

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

Legacy Society

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

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

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



Your Gifts Support our Elder Sisters

Thanks to your prayers, donations, and well wishes, we are able not only to care for our elder Sisters basic needs, but also provide a life of dignity that enriches their days in community. We are deeply grateful.



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
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“Less is best!”: The Art of Ikebana

By Sister Patti Cielinski, OSB
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