

PATHWAYS



NEWSLETTER OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

DULUTH MINNESOTA

Fall, 2006

Vol 18, No. 1

Garden Spirituality

By Sister Mary Christa Kroening

"The earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed...and God saw how good it was." Genesis 1:12

God looked at everything and found it to be very good (Genesis 1:1-2:4a). Living close to the earth, we learn through gardening the power of God's goodness in the seed that is planted. From one seed a five- or six-foot plant could grow tall and stately. One sunflower seed might yield five to ten blossoms, each with a multitude of seeds. God gives generously.

The sunflower is fascinating to watch since it follows the pathway of the sun. The bright, yellow blossoms continually look toward the sunshine until their heads become too heavy and must humbly bow to feed the birds, and give of their abundant seeds for humanity. The sunflower inspires us to keep our vision focused on Christ, the Son of God.

How does a seed grow and develop? What hidden forces break open the seed and help it spring to life? What transformation happens under the cover of the dark earth? How do bean seeds always produce beans, peas yield peas, and beets grow into beets? Simply watering, weeding, and cultivating a tiny seedling nurtures the plant that yields the vegetable. An onlooker watching the process and delighting in nature is called to acknowledge and praise the God of the universe and our Creator.

Gardening has been a way of life for my family. Dad was a wholesale and retail dealer of fruits and vegetables in season. We lived close to the earth. During the spring season there was the plowing and planting time; summers were for watering, weeding, cultivating, and harvesting; autumn brought the life cycle to fruition, and winter brought time for the good earth to rest.

One spring Dad leased land from the city and plowed over rich river-bottom soil of the Cottonwood River. First he planted a cover crop of rye to clear and clean the soil and then planted Kennebec potatoes. That year we harvested two crops. Grandma Frances Brandl Schmid helped us pick the bumper-crop of potatoes. In her Bavarian culture, Grandma did not use a pail but, holding the two corners of her apron, put the huge white potatoes into it as she exclaimed repeatedly, "Gott ist Gut!" Gott ist Gut!" Gott ist Gut!" Grandma raised twelve children, and to feed them she kept a cow, chickens, ducks, and geese along with a vegetable garden and the fruits from berry bushes and apple trees. Grandma Schmid knew the book of Genesis, especially the creation of trees and plants and continually praised God: "Gott ist Gut!"

Recently, a gift card came to me designed by Mary Engelbriet with the quotation, "Happiness must be grown in one's own garden." Plowing, fertilizing, planting seeds, watering, weeding, and cultivating—all contribute to bringing forth the harvest of good things to eat. The monastic life is nurtured in a similar manner with daily, communal prayer and work. Discerning the will of God from day to day needs time to germinate, cultivating discipline to grow and come to maturity. Lectio divina, the daily reading and pondering of Scripture, is similar to the spirituality of gardening.



A Letter from the Prioress

Dear Friends,

Throughout Sacred Scripture numerous metaphors are used to describe God's relationship with us. One of my favorites is that of God the gardener/farmer and we the garden/field (Ex. Isaiah 5: 1-5, John 15:1-5, I Corinthians 3:9). Having been blessed with the experience of growing up on a farm in Plymouth, Minnesota, my whole being resonates with the depth and the richness of that image. Tending even a small plot of land now is an essential part of caring for my soul and well-being as I let the earth and the life to which it gives birth lead me deeper into the nurturing and transforming love of God.

The field is also a fitting image, I believe, to describe the relationship of St. Scholastica Monastery to its sponsored institutions. In the past four issues of *Pathways* you have read about the ministries we sponsor: The College of St. Scholastica, the Benedictine Health System, St. Mary's Medical Center, and, in this issue, *Essentia*. St. Scholastica Monastery is the field, as it were, and our sponsored institutions the fruits which have grown and flourished over the years in its God-watered and Spirit-enriched soil.

The Benedictine core values that were identified for each sponsored institution are the flowering of the seed found in the very heart of the earth and of our identity as a Benedictine monastic community. These values flow from our mission and vision, articulating the charism we bring to the church and the world.

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery,
Duluth, Minnesota, are monastic women who seek
God in community through a life of prayer and
work. Living in accordance with the Gospel, the
Rule of St. Benedict, and the general and specific
Norms of the Federation of St. Benedict, we
respond to the needs of the Church and the world
through our ministries.

Vision Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, are active
monastics committed to living in the new millennium with
openness, courage, and joy, as we connect our 1500+ year
Benedictine tradition with the current needs of the Church and
our society. In this we are guided by our core monastic values:

- Centrality of communal and personal prayer,
- Hospitality,
- Stewardship,
- Communal life.

We will live and share our Benedictine values so as to be a
center of worship and praise in the region; a spiritual wellspring
as well as a place of compassion and hope.

We will be committed, through individuals as well as
through sponsored institutions, to minister to the spirit, mind,
and body of those we serve, especially the poor. We will strive
to maintain and choose ministries that are compatible with our
monastic life.

We will actively support and encourage those who seek
our vowed life or alternative forms of membership.

The field, describing both our relationship with God and that of our Monastery's sponsored institutions with our monastic community, is a fitting metaphor on which to focus as we gather in the harvest of another season of growth and abundance. We are deeply grateful for all the ways God's lavish love and compassion tends the field of our lives, our ministries, and our world. We are filled with gratitude as well for each of you who gift us in countless, grace-filled ways. May you be a field filled with the beauty and the wonder of God's tender, saving love at work within you, and may you bring forth a rich harvest for the healing of the Earth.

Lovingly yours in Christ,

Sister Lois Eckes

Sister Lois Eckes
Prioress

*Cover sunflower by Sister Joyce Fournier
Other flowers throughout by Andy Therrien*



Seeking God

By Sister Mary Rochefort, Formation Director

“I wish to respond to God’s call by entering more fully into this Benedictine monastic community.” These were the words spoken by Luce Dionne during the entry ritual on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Sister Lois Eckes, prioress, and the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery then accepted her request. Luce has heard and responded to God speaking through the psalmist quoted in *The Rule of Benedict*: Is there anyone here who yearns for life and desires to see good days? (Ps. 33) Her desire is to explore a new way of life; a life lived in community, guided by a *Rule* and a prioress. During the ritual, Luce was presented with a medal of St. Benedict, a set of Community Liturgy of the Hours prayer books, and an apron, symbolizing the commitment to the Benedictine life of community, prayer and work.



Luce Dionne, center, with Sister Mary Catherine Shambour, Director of Vocation Ministry (left) and Sister Mary Rochefort, Director of Formation.



The Liturgy of the Hours prayer books, the medal of St. Benedict, and the apron presented in the ceremony. Photos by Sister Joyce Fournier

Luce is now a postulant and will live and work side-by-side with the Sisters. Her time as a postulant, called the postulancy, is the initial phase of incorporation into the monastic life as it is lived by the Sisters in our Community. Luce will become familiar with the rhythm of our life by sharing in our Community prayer, meals, gatherings, and work. She will experience working with Sisters in various ministries, either within the Monastery or in the local area. She will share with us her unique gifts and talents, enriching our lives by her presence among us.

Luce will engage in a study program including theology and scripture courses at The College of St. Scholastica, as well as informal study of the various aspects of monastic life. She will learn the history of the Benedictines in Minnesota and, specifically, the story of our Community.

As Luce explores this new path on her life journey she will deepen her own spiritual life, seeking to know where God is leading her. When she is reasonably convinced that God is calling her to the monastic way of life, she may request to move to the next step of the process—that of a novice.

We welcome Luce into our community and are grateful to God for sending her to discern with us. We pray that she finds us a monastic community of prayer and service—“That in all things God may be glorified” (*Rule of Benedict* 57).



Sponsorship & Essentia Health

By Sister Kathleen Hofer

Sponsorship of our educational and health care institutions has been the topic of articles in *Pathways* over the past year. We spoke of sponsorship being a ministry in itself which sustains and promotes the mission and values of the Benedictine Sisters through our sponsored institutions. Sponsors carry responsibility for the stewardship of, and the long-term identity and stability of these important works. The Benedictine Sisters of Duluth have fulfilled this responsibility for their health care institutions for over 110 years, and for over 90 years for their college.

Over the past decade the Catholic Health Association has been exploring and defining a theology of Catholic health care sponsorship in order to bring about a better understanding of this key responsibility. Sponsorship is called to demonstrate faithfulness to the healing mission of Jesus, to the spirit and teachings of the Gospel, and to the teachings of the Church. It promotes integrity through integration of mission and core values by all persons in all aspects and activities of the institution. It reflects community, the communion of persons committed to a common mission and ministry. It emphasizes stewardship, respect, protection, enhancement, and sharing of all the resources used in the ministry for the common good.

Further reflection on our health care ministry affirms that sponsorship is always and primarily mission oriented. Sponsors are faithful to the call to build upon the legacy of the Church's rich history and heritage of commitment to the poor and underprivileged, as expressed through works of justice, mercy, and compassion. Sponsors are animated and dynamic as they inspire and challenge the ministry of health care to be relevant and responsive in today's ever-evolving society, while remaining true to the healing mission of Jesus. Sponsors are collaborative and initiate relationships marked by mutuality, respect, and integrity for the good of the ministry.

Sponsors are theologically grounded and promote reflection about the ministry of Catholic health care. They articulate the principles that support Catholic health care, especially in the context of a pluralistic and highly materialistic society. In addition to a theological base, sponsors are in communion with and develop mutually respectful and accountable relationships with church leadership. Sponsors are also accountable to the church at large, to the communities served, and to their religious congregations regarding the ministry's quality of service and fidelity to mission.

Essentia Health

The Benedictine Sisters of Duluth sponsor both the Benedictine Health System and the Catholic facilities within the SMDC Health System. In 2004 these two systems established a partnership, which has been named Essentia Health. Essentia Health, with its thousands of employees, believes that the highest quality health care requires a regard for both the soul and science of healing. It believes in the synergy of sponsorship among faith-based and secular organizations.

Essentia Health brings together two systems with complementary areas of expertise. Each system strengthens the ability of the other to deliver the highest quality across a full continuum of care. The SMDC and Benedictine Health Systems enhance the work of one another in their ongoing efforts to be mission-oriented, dynamic, collaborative, and accountable to the communities they serve. Essentia Health helps assure that the mission of the Benedictine Sisters is achieved through all its sponsored institutions.

Sponsorship needs the efforts of many dedicated men and women. It is about multitudes of persons in service from a personal call and an organizational response—a response to carry forward the healing ministry of Jesus.

Sponsors cannot act alone. It is only with the help of many very committed individuals that the people of God can be compassionately served. Sponsorship is about a response to God's call to serve, about a willingness to be a witness to God's presence and God's love, about persons who live in faith and in hope. It is about a faith community engaged in continuing the healing ministry of the greater Church. It is about all who serve with integrity and fidelity to carry out the mission of Jesus.



Two Pilgrims

By Sister Teri Spinler and Sister Jeanne Ann Weber

We began our Rome Renewal Program as pilgrims, not as tourists. To be a pilgrim is “to go out of our own land to experience the poverty, the risk, the richness of the unknown...to stand in a holy place in the presence of God and each other, in awe and thanksgiving...and to return to our own land with a new vision...with a new power at work in us, to seek God’s way together, to spend ourselves for a future in which the God of Love is fully in our lives, in our world.”



Sister Jeanne Ann Weber and Sister Teri Spinler at Subiaco, where Benedict spent three years in a cave.

We journeyed in Rome and outside Rome via bus, train, metro, and on foot. We also spent a day in Assisi. We were blessed to have wonderful teachers instructing us on all the places before we visited them. We had classes on pre-monasticism, monasticism, the *Holy Rule*, and on the early ascetic women and men. We also had days of meaningful reflection.

The scenery of the countryside is so beautiful: high-peaked mountains clothed with thick green trees, small colorful farm plots of bright sunflower fields, wheat fields and olive and grape orchards. It was quite a contrast from being in Rome where in some areas the buildings are so compact that one sees the green plants on top of the buildings rather than on the streets.

Rome has many huge, beautiful old fountains found in plazas. Not only did we appreciate the beauty of the fountains, but the water in Rome is very clear and refreshing; we could drink it from all fountains and faucets.

Truly, during our five-week program, we could constantly sing “This is holy ground—we are standing on holy ground.”

It was awesome to experience the frescoes, statues, mosaics, and all the old ruins representing many civilizations in Rome; to walk the narrow cobblestone streets that were used before Christianity; to view the magnificent marble basilicas which structurally stand so sturdy and continue today to give glory to God; to see Pope Benedict XVI presiding at the Eucharist in St. Peter’s; to walk through the ruins of the Roman Forum which was the political and religious center of ancient Rome; to be present in the same prison where Peter was in chains; to walk into the catacombs to see where the Christians were buried; to travel in the footsteps of St. Benedict from his home in Norcia to the caves in Vicavaro, to the monasteries in Subiaco and Monte Casino.



Statue of St. Scholastica outside the Church of St. Benedict at Norcia.



Highlights

Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities at St. Scholastica

By Sister Mary Richard Boo

Thirteen Benedictine college presidents and their sponsoring abbots/prioresses spent several fruitful June days on the campus of The College of St. Scholastica in a meeting of the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities. As part of the program, which centered on the vision of the Benedictine Wisdom Tradition and the way it fits within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, many of the participants joined the Sisters at both prayers and meals. A letter to Sister Lois from the administrators of the conference said in part, "We are encouraged and inspired by how seriously all of you take the responsibility for shepherding and nurturing and transmitting the precious tradition of Benedictine wisdom There is still a good deal of work to be done . . . but you have made a good beginning—very much in the spirit of Chapter 73!" (*Rule of Benedict*).

New Peace Doors

The summer-long barricades were removed, and the new Peace Doors ("PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE!") in the north cloister walk opened for the first day of CSS fall classes. The original door, designed and carved by Sister Mary Charles McGough, had shown the effects of twenty years of buffeting by Lake Superior's winds, rain, and snow. The new doors are an exact replica, electronically copied and carved, made of mahogany.



Photos by Andy Therrien

Novice and Director Institute

By Sister Mary Rochefort



Sister Mary Rochefort assisted Sister Colette Wolfe in directing the Novice and Director Institute held at Sacred Heart Monastery in Richardton, North Dakota, this summer. The institute is held annually for women in the second phase of the Initial Formation Process for vowed commitment to monastic life. The theme of the institute was "Weaving Our Dreams." Among the speakers was Sister Jean Maher, OSB, of St. Scholastica Monastery, whose presentation was entitled "Weaving Our Dreams Into Everyday Life." Sister Jean, third from right, is shown here with participants.

Sister Edith Bogue Presents at American Benedictine Academy

By Sister Mary Richard Boo

Sister Edith Bogue, assistant professor in the CSS Sociology Department, presented a paper entitled "Learning to Love: family sociology in dialogue with monasticism" at the annual meeting of the American Benedictine Academy, August 10-13 in Lisle, Illinois. Keynote speaker at the meeting was Abbot Primate Notkar Wolf, OSB, of Rome.

Benedictine Weekend Retreat

Single Catholic women interested in religious life are invited to a weekend retreat at St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, Minneosta, November 17-19. There is no charge, but reservations are required. Contact Sister Mary Catherine Shambour at (218) 723-6646 or mcshambour@duluthosb.org.

Statue Hands

By Sister Martha Bechtold

This past May I was in Mississippi with The College of St. Scholastica group assisting people whose homes had been damaged by Hurricane Katrina. We stayed at the Dedeaux Retreat Center, and our host, Billy Ray, called our attention one day to the statue of the Sacred Heart which stood outside, next to the front door. The statue had been toppled in the hurricane, and both hands were broken off. He told our group that we needed to be the hands of Jesus. When I saw that damaged statue, I thought of the poor condition of the hands of our own Sacred Heart statue on the St. Scholastica Monastery grounds and began to wonder if it would be possible to order replacement hands from a company. My research into the matter revealed that replacement hands were not available but had to be done individually by an artist for each statue, particularly because there were so many hand positions on Sacred Heart statues.

When Gary Sundre became one of our volunteer drivers at the Monastery, I had learned that he was interested in ceramics and other art forms. So I asked him if he would be interested in taking on the project of creating new hands for the statue. We went to see the statue, and he immediately became inspired and searched the internet for appropriate molding materials. As he moved ahead on the project, I put him in touch with Bob Specht, one of our campus painters who would oversee the project. Bob was equally excited and happy to be working with Gary.

As the project developed, a small box was built to hold molding compound. Gary, who thought his hands would be the right size, found that they were too large. "They looked like Mickey Mouse hands with gloves," he said. Bob looked around for someone with hands that appeared to be the right size and found that Steve Rowan, the Tower Hall custodian, had hands that would be a good model. So Steve had his hands molded, and they indeed proved to be the right size. (Steve now flashes his "hands of God!") When the hands were ready, a scaffold was set up at the statue, the old hands removed, and the new ones put in place. For two hours Bob and Gary stood on the scaffold holding each hand in position until the epoxy dried. The statue was then painted and is now again an object of beauty and devotion.

Photos by Andy Therrien



Bob Specht (left) and Gary Sundre repair the Sacred Heart statue hands.

Photos by Andy Therrien



Sister Mary Charles Receives Award

By Sister Mary Richard Boo

Sister Mary Charles McGough has been named a 2006 recipient of a Mother Teresa Award, given by the St. Bernadette Institute of Sacred Art in recognition of the achievements of "those who beautify the world, especially in the fields of religion, social action, and the arts." Persons chosen as laureates are nominated by the public at large and then selected by the Board of Directors of the St. Bernadette Institute of Sacred Art and the Selection Committee of the Mother Teresa Awards.

The Institute, a volunteer organization located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has as its primary goals the support of the arts and the recognition of those artists in many different media who dedicate their gifts to the beautification of the world. Some of the famous names included in the 2005 list of recipients are Pope John Paul II, Sister Wendy Becket, Jennifer Jones, Sister Miriam Thesese Winter, John M. Talbot, and Mel Gibson.

SISTER PROFILE:

Sister Marguerite Baxter

By Sister Margaret James Laughlin



Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier

Sister Marguerite (Florence) Baxter, the youngest of the seven children of Charles and Margaret Baxter, was two years old when the family moved to Houghton, Michigan, a cold, snowy, hilly place where the bridge turned sideways to admit the lakers to docks. Her father, a mining engineer who had become an iron mine superintendent, now changed careers again and became a faculty member at Michigan College of Mining and Technology. In Houghton, he and her mother, a former teacher, raised a close-knit, lively, educated family.

After graduating from Houghton High School, Florence followed her older sisters to The College of St. Scholastica. She would have liked to have become a medical doctor, a career all but closed to women at that time, so chose instead the closely related field of medical technology. In the middle of her senior year she entered Duluth's Benedictine community and began the customary three-year formation period.

Sister Marguerite's first ministry assignment was in elementary education, first in Duluth at Sacred Heart and then in Minneapolis at St. Bridget's. As she looks back now over almost sixty years of ministry, she considers these her most difficult years. She did not enjoy teaching and was happy to be soon assigned to the clinical laboratory at St. Mary's Hospital where she earned certification as a medical technologist, and for a dozen years found the medical work satisfying and the patient relationships rewarding. In 1968 she earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

The ministry assignment once again was teaching—this time as chair of the then-titled Medical Technology Department and later as co-chair of the Health Science Division of The College of St. Scholastica. For twenty-five years the Department flourished under Sister Marguerite's leadership; its graduates were highly regarded and could pick their places of employment. In 1997 Sister Marguerite was awarded the status of faculty emerita and became student advisor for the Health Sciences Division, an occupation she thoroughly enjoyed until 2000.

During her years as a medical technologist she was a member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and an associate member of the American Society for Clinical Pathologists; she served as president of the Arrowhead District Society for Medical Technology, on the Catholic Hospital Association Committee on Medical Technology, and on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Society for Medical Technology.

In addition to her professional commitments, over the years she represented St. Scholastica Monastery on the Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Hospital, Brainerd; and in Duluth the Benedictine Health Center and the St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic Health System.

In 1978, as part of its preparation for the sesquimillennnial celebration of the Benedictine Order in 1980, a lapel pin *Benedictines 480-1980* was designed for the Sisters to wear. Much to everyone's surprise, orders for these (and later for the Oblate pin) began to arrive from all over the world and have continued to the present day. Sister Marguerite's task on the 1978 original committee was to fill the orders; as the orders have continued, so has she—a unique ministry which no one anticipated.

In 2000 Sister Marguerite left the College and was assigned to the Monastery liturgy office where she works behind the scenes organizing, planning, and preparing computerized materials for liturgical services. Sister Marguerite's great organizational skills, meticulous attention to details, perfectionism, and devotion to duty have ensured that the liturgical and ritual services of the Monastery can be carried out as scheduled. She quipped, "As long as the Sisters pray, I'll have a job."

Sister Marguerite is not a hobbyist. Her days of prayer and work are rounded out in community living, which she finds the most satisfying part of religious life, and in recreational reading and enjoyment of sports. She is a Vikings fan, but, like many other Yoopers, not when they play the Packers.



Monastery Archives

Benet Hall's Mary Poppins

By Sister Mary Richard Boo

Benet Hall, and indeed the entire Monastery has reason to rejoice: our own Mary Poppins has arrived, and fresh winds are blowing. Jane Bertani, O.T.R. (Occupational Therapist Registered) has blown in from San Francisco, not with a black umbrella, but with a clipboard full of ideas, insights, and schedules for an activity program *par excellence*. For some twenty hours each week this energetic lady, now resident in Duluth, works with the residents of Benet Hall (as well as the Monastery at large), often individually, but sometimes also in small groups.

Today, Benet Hall is a busy place. Residents no longer spend too much time watching TV or simply dozing; there are things to do and choices to be made! Perhaps the finest feature of Jane's program is the fact that participants choose the pastime that most appeals to them personally. Whether it's knitting (Sisters are making scarves for the residents of Alicia's Place, a women's recovery center), making ornaments for "Giving Trees" and rosaries for children, playing cards or actually making cards, watching movies, reading and discussing, or cooking tasty dishes (Sister Barbara Ann Tushar's specialty), there is almost always something doing. "There's even more chatter in the dining room," says Jane with satisfaction. "People have something to talk about." On every other Wednesday, Jane's children check in to play board games with the Sisters, and in July helped with a barbecue dinner in the Garden Court.

What has Jane learned? "Sisters prefer a one-to-one situation." She has also observed that many of the Sisters who initially chose not to participate in the program have now changed their minds and are actively enjoying the new atmosphere that pervades and enlivens Benet Hall.



Jane Bertani and Sister Barbara Ann Tushar (seated) work to make greeting cards.

Photos by Andy Therrien



Jane Bertani

Stanbrook Reunion Date will Change in 2007!

On July 23, 2006, some 85 Stanbrook Alumnae returned to Stanbrook Hall for their various class reunions. They toured the buildings, walked through campus grounds, attended Mass and brunch with the Sisters, and enjoyed videos and PowerPoint presentations.

Next summer, Saturday afternoon, July 14, 2007, has been reserved for the Stanbrook Hall Reunion. Evaluations of recent reunions have lead us to believe this change will accommodate more women traveling from out of town and will be less heavily scheduled. Tea and tours and visiting will take place from 2-4 p.m. on the 14th. Please call Andy Therrien in the Development Office if you have questions or need additional information (218) 723-6536.



Stanbrook Hall Class of 1956 Alumnae

In Loving Memory

Sister Elizabeth Holland



Sister Elizabeth Holland (formerly Sister James Marie), of St. Scholastica Monastery, died at the Monastery Monday, July 3, 2006. She was born December 13, 1923, in Huntington, West Virginia, and graduated from Phillips High School in Birmingham, Alabama. She entered the Duluth Benedictines in 1943 and made her monastic profession in 1947. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1949 from The College of St. Scholastica, a Masters in Religion in 1954 from St. Mary's College, South Bend, Indiana, and a Masters in Education in 1960 from Marquette University.

Before entering the Monastery, Sister Liz, as she was called, spent a summer as a college student doing catechetical work in Birmingham, Alabama. She taught at Sacred Heart Elementary School, St. John's School, and St. James School, Duluth; Marquette School, Virginia, Minnesota; and Holy Family Catechetical School, Eveleth, Minnesota. Over the years she was the principal and teacher at St. Bridget's School in Minneapolis and at Our Mother of Sorrows School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

For nine years, while taking care of her mother, she taught at Our Lady of Sorrows in Birmingham, Alabama. Later, Sister Liz worked in food service at St. Scholastica Monastery, St. Gertrude's School, Washington, D.C., and Desert House of Prayer in Tucson, Arizona. She also did pastoral ministry in Phoenix, Arizona.

In her later years she served at the Monastery information desk, was a companion to elderly Sisters, and did craft work for the Monastery gift shop.

At her wake, many spoke about her love for cooking. Her specialty was pastries, though a comment was made that she could also "cook up a mean kettle of spaghetti." When she was in Washington, D.C., she baked cakes, pies, cookies, and pasties, occasionally sending some to the Archbishop's (Cardinal Hickey) residence. Once he said that he knew whenever she had been there because his staff was especially pleasant on those days! Another Sister said that Sister Liz brought up the issue of integration to discussion groups in the very white parish and neighborhood where she was teaching. Two other talents mentioned at the wake were her singing and her poetry. A poem and some of her prayers were shared, and a recording of her singing "The Convent Made a Lady out of Lizzie" was played.

Sister Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents, James Grover Holland and Mary (Machinkowski) Holland; three sisters, Catherine, Ruth, and Irene; and a brother Jim. She is survived by a nephew, John Berchmans Holland and other nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces, as well as by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING DECEASED RELATIVES AND/OR BENEFACTORS:

Mildred Dahl
Bernadette Nicol 2/28/06
Wynn Ogla Somers 4/9/06
Johnette Anne O'Connell 5/31/06
Joyce Quinlivan 6/2/06
Alois Worm 6/3/06
Sabina Stoffel 6/8/06
Jeane Sword 6/13/06

James J. Rosenberger 6/16/06
Salvatore Bulgarella 6/18/06
William LaFrance 6/23/06
Gladys O'Hehir 6/25/06
Ralph J. Link 6/28/06
Theodore F. Midkiff 7/6/06
Gertrude Louise Robinson 7/11/06
Marie J. Johnston 7/13/06

Donald Higgins 7/21/06
Sister Barbara Higgins and Sister
Mary Rae Higgins' brother
Nancy Weiss 7/23/06
Raymond George Arimond 8/8/06
Rev. Kirby Blanchard 8/11/06

In Loving Memory (continued)

Sister Jean Patrick Bennett



Sister Jean Patrick (Mary Alice) Bennett, of St. Scholastica Monastery, died at the Monastery Friday, August 4, 2006. She was born October 3, 1916, in Chicago, Illinois, and received her high school education at Villa Sancta Scholastica Academy in Duluth, Minnesota. Sister Jean Patrick said the hardest part about her journey to attend high school at Villa Scholastica was leaving her parents and siblings in Chicago. The mournful sound of the fog horn on rainy days brought on tears of loneliness. However, she imbibed enough faith and courage from the Benedictine environment and from her devout Irish-born parents that she was able to accept God's call to enter the Monastery after graduation. She did so September 7, 1935, making her monastic profession in 1937 and celebrating her Silver Jubilee in 1962, Golden in 1987, and Diamond in 1997.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. The summer of 1985 she attended the Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology at St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, Minnesota, and during the summer of 1966 she attended an eight-week Reading Institute for Elementary Teachers, funded by a government grant, at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Her first teaching assignment was at St. Clement's School in Duluth. After six years she was assigned to St. Timothy's School in Chicago, the city where she was born and the school from which she had graduated in 1931. In a talk she gave to the Sisters in 1997, she admitted that being back in her home parish was a challenge. After eight years she moved on to teach at other schools: St. Bridget's, Minneapolis, Minnesota; St. Anthony, Duluth, Minnesota; St. Joseph, Crosby, Minnesota; St. Rose of Lima, Proctor, Minnesota; Holy Name, Wayzata, Minnesota; and St. Francis, Brainerd, Minnesota. She also spent a summer tutoring students in mathematics and reading. When she returned to the Monastery in 1993, she served as director of the Enrichment Center, sacristan, and clerk in the Monastery Transportation Office.

At Sister Jean Patrick's wake service Tuesday, August 8, 2006, in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, one Sister noted that a hymn which had just been sung clearly summed up her life: "Blest are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." At her funeral the same day, the homilist added, "Compassionate love was a hallmark of Sister Jean Patrick." Someone described her as a "classy lady," and others told of how proud she was of her Irish heritage. Her wonderful sense of humor no doubt came from this lineage. She loved to play cards, especially cribbage, and when she played she wanted both sides to win. Her devotion to duty was exemplified the first day she was sacristan: as she watched a baseball game with the score tied in the eighth inning, she excused herself "to turn on the lights in chapel" for prayers!

Sister Jean Patrick was preceded in death by her parents, John and Delia (Heraty) Bennett; her brother John; and her twin sisters, Patricia (Parkin) and Eugenia (Baer). In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.



Do You Seek God?

By Sister Mary Catherine Shambour

"Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace!" Luke 19:42

Do you ever wonder when watching the horrific news from the Middle East if Jesus still weeps over Jerusalem? Do you ever reflect on what our world could be like if all people respected God's laws, followed the example of Jesus, laid down their weapons and truly loved their neighbors? Many of us long for such a world; some have made attempts to create such a society—with varying results.

Recently, I could not help but make a connection when numerous visitors to the Monastery commented on the peace they witness here. "Peace" is not just inscribed on our doors and in our motto, but is actually lived and present here. And why not? Did Jesus not promise peace to those who would keep His word, a peace "which the world cannot give?" And monasteries are for souls who seek God alone, the true source of all peace. But let us not think that a monastery is just an easy oasis from the troubles of this world. Peace always comes at a price. It has to be worked at, day in and day out, just as in a marriage or in any other deliberative institution. And that's probably the reason that peace is so absent in our world and in our families. We know what we want, and we're sure we have the answers as how to get it. We haven't been willing to die to ourselves and allow God to lead us in the ways of peace.

On the other hand, St. Benedict understood that there are souls who truly desire to seek God alone, but who realize they don't have all the answers and long for a teacher. Knowing that the only true teacher of peace is God who reveals Himself in the Word, he founded a "school of the Lord's service" where lifelong learners would study, pray, and live God's word each day as they strove to become like their Teacher. The monastery would be their "workshop" where his followers could grow in virtue and demonstrate their love for God by the way they loved and respected one another and all God's creation. As a guidebook, Benedict penned a "simple rule for beginners" that outlined some of the "tools of good works" and the twelve steps of humility by which one could arrive at perfect love of God. And to make sure that his followers never felt that they "had it all made," his followers were to make a promise of fidelity to the monastic way of life (*conversatio*) by which they commit themselves to the continuing process of growth and formation. To insure that the members would support one another and work together, they would promise stability to the particular monastery. When faithfully lived out, such mutual striving for holiness is bound to create peace.

Anyone feeling called to religious life today needs to weigh carefully the calling. Some are called to a particular ministry that will utilize their God-given talents. Others who wish to work together in praising God while growing in virtue may be called to monastic life where everyone's talents are developed and utilized, but the ministries may be varied. In considering an applicant for final profession, Benedictines do not ask how good a teacher, administrator, or cook one may be but "Does the applicant truly seek God?" If you are a woman who feels that God might be drawing you to such a life, please contact me at mcshambour@duluthosb.org or 281-723-6646 for further information.



Sister Mary Catherine Shambour,
Director of Vocation Ministry

Photo by Kathy Laplante

PATHWAYS



Published by: Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN

Produced by: Monastery Development / Public Relations Office

Editorial Board: Sister Lois Eckes, prioress; Vicky Siders, director; Sister Armella Oblak, Sister Almira Randall, Sister Grace Marie Braun, Sister Joyce Fournier, Sister Linda Wiggins, Sister Margaret Clarke, Sister Margaret James Laughlin, Sister Mary Richard Boo, Sister Estelle Charron, and Andy Therrien.

Contributors: Sisters of the Community

PATHWAYS is published quarterly and is distributed among friends, relatives, associates, and benefactors of the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.

St. Scholastica Monastery
1001 Kenwood Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811-2300
Telephone 218-723-6540 • FAX 218-723-5963
Visit our web site at www.DuluthBenedictines.org