

PATHWAYS



NEWSLETTER OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

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Wounded Healers: A Lenten Reflection

By Sister Sarah O'Malley

Sister Sarah gave this reflection at McCabe Renewal Center last July, part of a retreat workshop titled "Wounded Healers: The Spirituality of Father Henri Nouwen and Vincent van Gogh." Sister Sarah is director of Ministry of Care at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Phoenix, and is also a parish retreat facilitator. She says that Nouwen and his spiritual mentor, van Gogh, shared many heartaches as well as a firm belief in Jesus' healing love.

Buried in the French countryside I loved and painted, I am at peace, one with the earth and God. My gravestone reads, Vincent van Gogh, 1853-1890, but that doesn't begin to tell my story.

Yes, I shot myself in the chest amid the golden wheat fields. I didn't choose death. I chose to save my brother Theo, the art dealer, from the burden and worry of caring for me, often sick and penniless, while he also cared for his young wife, Johanna, and newborn son (my godson Vincent). Theo remained at my bedside until I died, two days later. He grieved but understood my heart better than anyone else, a soul mate. Six months later, he died of tuberculosis—and some say a broken heart. Fittingly, we now lie side by side in our graves.

I speak now to anyone who will listen, for I seek understanding, compassion. As a preacher, I faced rejection, heartbreak, depression, and failure. The board of the Dutch Reformed Church—and my own father—shouted, "No, you are not fit to be a pastor!" They said I lacked the necessary education and a sense of propriety. It was not proper for a pastor to mingle with peasants in coal mines and farmers in potato fields. But I believed that God walks with the poor and suffering, those needing "Good News." I resolved that if

my church forbade me to use my voice to preach God's love, I would use art—canvas, paints, and brushes. I would paint the glory of God in all creation, including the faces of the poor.

At the age of 27, I began learning the basics of sketching and painting. Each time I started a fresh canvas, I felt the excitement, the challenge, the hope of touching people's lives. With bold, bright colors, I painted fields, trees, birds, skies, seasons, and simple, ordinary, forgotten people. In that way, I moved from preaching to painting—but with the same goal. As a painter, however, I faced ridicule, loneliness, and poverty. Without Theo, I would never have been able to pursue this path of painting coal miners, peasants, and nature. Did I know my life as a painter would end soon, when I was 37? I really don't know, but I went at my painting and drawing with the urgency and passion of a madman, feverishly completing more than 2,000 works in 10 years. Yet I had no buyers, no money. To many, I was the crazy, red-headed artist who should have been locked up.

The gunshot wound in my chest that summer day represented countless other wounds I had received; yet I knew that God, alive in all creation, would never abandon me. I believed Isaiah's description of the Suffering Servant, pointing to Jesus but also to his followers: "Yet it was our infirmities he bore, our sufferings he endured . . . By his wounds we were healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5). I knew Jesus loved me and bore my infirmities, and by his wounds, I was healed. Was I a failure? Did my life have meaning? As Henri Nouwen would later say, "Only God knows the map of my heart."

Lent is a fitting time to reflect on our own wounds and brokenness, asking, "Where is God working in my life?"



A Letter from the Prioress



Each of us is a unique and precious story which begins and finds its fulfillment in the Heart of God. Our stories are interwoven with the great story of the universe of which we are an intimate part. All is sacred, all creation is beloved of God. As Christians our unfolding story is centered in Christ who is our Way, our Truth, and our Life.

As we continue to engage in the wondrous gift of life and experience both its ecstasy and agony, we discover, nestled in our hearts, a deep longing for connection with the Divine. As St. Augustine said centuries ago, "You have made us for Yourself, O God, and our hearts will be restless until they rest in you."

In the relentless busyness of life, we long for Sabbath time, for quiet rest and moments of solitude when we can listen to God speaking to us in the sheer silence. Sabbath time replenishes our whole being and makes our work fruitful as we generously serve those who need our care.

As the sacred story of your life continues to unfold, may you give yourself the gift of Sabbath time to let your soul catch up to you. May this blessing from *Anam Cara* by the late John O'Donohue, beloved poet, spiritual writer, and mentor to countless people worldwide, guide your heart again and again toward Home, which is the Heart of God.



A Blessing of Solitude

May you recognize in your life the presence, power,
and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone,
that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you
intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

.....
May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride,
and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.

Lovingly yours with grateful daily prayer,

Sister Lois Ecker

Sister Lois
Prioress

*"A Blessing of Solitude" from Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom by John O'Donohue,
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Photo of crocus on cover by Sister Joyce Fournier



Sister Profile: Sister Mary Jean (Lawrence) Tuttle



was born November 29, 1923, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, to Grace and Jess W. Tuttle. My sisters are Grace and Marguerite, and my brothers are Donald and Robert.

Our family lived on University Avenue, ten blocks from the University of North Dakota. My father was a University Athletic Booster, so we were involved in activities at the University including homecoming celebrations and athletic events. Our parish, St. Michael's, was a flourishing community in which our family took part. My brothers and sisters and I attended St. Michael's Elementary School. My high school years were filled with musical experiences and sports activities.

Everybody in our family, cousins by the dozens, attended the University of North Dakota. Why didn't I? Sister Monica and Sister Prudentia, recruiters from The College of St. Scholastica, came to Grand Forks, and my pastor, Monsignor McNamee, sent them to my house. They convinced me to visit the Villa, so my mother and I took the train to Duluth. I was much in awe of the beauty of the Villa. I sang for Sister Martina Hughes, head of the Music Department, and was promised a \$275 voice scholarship. Mom and I took the train back to Grand Forks, and I promptly forgot about the Villa because I was receiving letters from different sororities. A letter from Sister Prudentia changed everything. Mom and Dad decided I was going to St. Scholastica. My plans were to go to St. Scholastica and from there to the Julliard School of Music and hopefully on to the Metropolitan Opera. God had other plans for me. My association with the Sisters, especially Sister Ann Edward Scanlon, Sister Mary Horgan, and Sister Martina Hughes as professors and mentors, drew me closer and closer to a vocation as a Benedictine Sister. But, most of all, my daily participation at the Eucharist in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel touched my soul and made me want to share my life with the Benedictine Sisters at St. Scholastica. I entered the religious life on January 6 of my sophomore year. My first vows were taken on July 11, 1944. My final vows occurred on July 11, 1947.

My education has been ongoing. I received a B.A. from The College of St. Scholastica with a music major and English and French minors, a Master's in theology from St. John's School of Theology, a M.M.Ed. degree from the University of North Dakota (music education major) and an M.A. in communications from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Other schooling included studies at Northwestern University (music), University of Minnesota Duluth (psychology and education), Kansas State University (French), and the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins (music education).

I taught at St. Francis School in Brainerd, at St. Anthony's and Duluth Cathedral in Duluth (where I served as chair of the Music Department) and at Gerard High School in Phoenix, Arizona. From 1975 to the present I have been an assistant professor of Music and Communication, Theater Arts at The College of St. Scholastica. In 1999 I received the Max H. Lavine Award for Teaching Excellence and in 2000 the Sister Timothy Kirby Benedictine Spirit Award.

In St. Scholastica's monastic Community I am a member of the Schola Cantorum and assist in preparing weekly liturgical schema. I am also a member of Pax Christi, an international society for the promotion of peace and justice.

Throughout my life, I have loved the sport of ice skating and the challenging literary effort of parodying songs from famous musicals to present at feast day programs. One of my most rewarding experiences was being involved in the production of 20 musicals while teaching at Duluth Cathedral High School. In my professional life I've found that I keep in touch with many former students—their lives in the world and their families, etc. I am very grateful to God, Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, for giving me talents that have helped me to "make the world a better place."

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Sister Mary Jean Tuttle

Sister Donna Schroeder



Sister Donna Schroeder and biology student in 2007

I began teaching biology at The College of St. Scholastica in 1969. In 1972 I started work toward a doctorate in biology. My research was in animal behavior. Some colleagues find the title of my dissertation, *Whistled Song as Communication in the Tufted Titmouse*, a bit hilarious. However, the field work required was both a joy and a challenge. How many people get to spend two years in the woods recording birdsong? It did require my presence in the field at first light, half an hour before sunrise so I could hear and record the first songs of the day. In June that comes very early! The work did pose some risks because of wandering dog packs and copperhead snakes. I was only chased by the police once on my way to the field site. They thought I looked suspicious, biking at that hour of the morning. Also, I learned not to wash my hair with floral-scented shampoos because being attractive to bees was . . . a handicap.

Since returning to CSS in January of 1977, I have taught many different courses, but for the last several years most of these have been large introductory courses. I taught my own labs for the classes and did enjoy teaching them because of the interaction with students that labs allow. One of my favorite classes, however, is a course I developed called "Conversations with the Naturalists." In it the students read some of the classics like Aldo Leopold's, *A Sand County Almanac*, and some very light and fun books like Eugene Linden's, *The Parrot's Lament*. Students also get to choose some of their own reading. There are papers to write but no tests. This latter may be a considerable magnet, drawing students to the class! The phrase "science

The Sisters

The following Sisters all teach biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics. Each Sister was invited to write a short story about her teaching experience.

test" may strike terror into the heart of a student. Though I will be teaching part-time next year, I am currently working on a Certificate in Monastic Studies, formally making me a student again. Unofficially, teachers must always be students!

Sister Beverly Raway



Sister Beverly Raway with nursing student at St. Mary's

I am an assistant professor and full-time faculty member in the School of Nursing at The College of St. Scholastica where I have taught nursing students at the undergraduate level for 15 years. My teaching includes both classroom theory and practical application of nursing skills in laboratory and hospital settings. Topics that I teach include pain management and care of surgical, stroke, and Alzheimer's patients. As a laboratory and clinical instructor, I guide students in their first year of acute care experiences in the simulation lab at the College and in patient care on the orthopedic unit of St. Mary's Medical Center. In the spring semester, I teach Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing, a course in which students work in teams to find answers to clinical practice questions by applying findings from nursing research.

I also advise 15-20 students per year in their academic work and career choices and serve as a board member for the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. I am also currently serving on the Faculty Welfare Committee of the College and on the Executive and Admission and Progression Committees of the School of Nursing.

s of Science

Physics, or nursing at The College of St. Scholastica.
Write a short account of her work there.

Another part of my work includes the preparation of faculty, students, and alumni of the College for their service-learning trips to Tanzania where they work with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes. This preparation has included planning the budget and itinerary, soliciting grants, and collecting donated supplies. Students are prepared for this experience in a 2-credit class that includes concepts related to global health and Tanzanian culture. It has been a privilege and a delight to work among the Tanzanian Sisters; it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

Sister Margaret Clarke



Sister Margaret Clarke in her office

I suppose that everyone by now is familiar with the "old Chinese curse: 'May you live in interesting times.'" In some way I believe that this applies to me, because from my earliest childhood I have found everything interesting. When I was only a few weeks old, according to family legend, my great-aunt Elmina looked at me in my cradle and decreed, "She will be an artist." Indeed, for most of my young years it was more or less assumed that Aunt Miney's prophecy had come true, and I would become an artist. When I was in the third grade, however, I picked up some books on stars, rocks, and other wonders of the physical universe and was hooked. Nevertheless, I chugged along

through junior high and early high school drawing and painting, but reading science fiction on the side. In the middle of my junior year in high school I saw a movie short subject on atomic energy research and suddenly decided that was what I wanted to do with my life.

In College I majored in chemistry, with the intention of going to work after graduation at the Hanford National Laboratory. God intervened, and I wound up entering the Duluth Benedictines instead. I was eventually assigned to teach chemistry and geometry at Stanbrook Hall. After my first year there, the principal informed me that we were going to add a course in earth science, and so I went off to a summer institute in geology and astronomy, and added that to my teaching repertoire. Thanks to the National Science Foundation, I earned a master's degree in analytical chemistry during the summers, and upon its completion was assigned to the College where I began teaching earth sciences and physical science. It was at this time that I was finally old enough to appreciate history and developed an interest in history and philosophy of science. I found an interdisciplinary doctoral program in physical sciences at Oregon State University, and completed a Ph.D. with concentrations in history of science and (my high school ambition) radiation physics.

During my forty years on the College faculty I have taught Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences, Art Appreciation, History and Philosophy of Science and Logic, to name just the most important ones. If you were to ask me what is my "real" professional field, I would probably say history of science. For someone who has been "cursed" with an interest in everything, it makes it possible to relay to the next generations the ways in which science affects its culture, and culture affects science. It truly has been interesting.

Continued on page 6

Sister Agnes Alich



Sister Agnes Alich with lab assistant

The community tried me out as an elementary school teacher for one year and quickly sent me to high school. After six years I went to Northwestern to get a Ph.D. and have been at CSS ever since. I came to CSS in 1971 (actually there was a three-year stint earlier when I was replacing Sister Agatha Riehl so she could get her Ph.D.) I have taught every course offered by the chemistry department and even worked with groups of new faculty learning to do research! I was department chair of chemistry from 1976 to 1994. I did research during all those years. First, I tried different small projects, but soon I settled on three—metal carbonyl compounds, aspirin and its damage to the stomach, and phytates. I supervised 112 semesters of research by students—a total of 87 students. This research resulted in 89 papers published or delivered. The aspirin research was done in collaboration with Dr. Larry Wittmers of the UMD Medical School. Otherwise I worked independently with the students. I still hear from many of these students, and, because I do, it has become a custom for me to write a letter to all Chemistry alumni at Christmas.

What I have listed above is teaching and research. But what I do more than anything else is talk to students as they come into my office. That is my real job! I love my job!

Becoming an Affiliate

By Carla Flood



Photo by Andy Therrien

Carla Flood

I have been an Affiliate at St. Scholastica Monastery since mid-December. An Affiliate is a woman interested in the possibility of entering the Community someday who discerns with them for at least six months to find out if she and the Community are compatible. During my time as an Affiliate, I am seeking God—particularly how and where God wants me to serve the Church. Having a balanced life is important to me, and the fact that Benedictines especially strive for that is attractive to me. I want to find the best place to use the gifts God has given me, and know that in a Community there are many opportunities to use a variety of talents at different times.

I have loved my time as an Affiliate from the beginning. One of the things I have enjoyed most so far is being a Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary's Medical Center. I have a Master's degree in social work, and I would like to pursue hospital ministry not only as a social worker, but also as a chaplain at some point, when I can be trained and certified for that work. Helping at the Benedictine Health Center preschool is another form of ministry in which I hope I can participate regularly during the coming months.

Beyond work, I have also appreciated the opportunity to deepen my prayer life—which now includes time in front of the Blessed Sacrament almost every day—and for spiritual reading. In fact, I have challenged myself to read the entire Bible in one year. The Sisters have made me feel welcome, not only in their times for prayer, but also their leisure activities, discussion groups, and other events. It was fun being a part of the holiday and other feast day celebrations. It has been a pleasure hearing the Sisters tell stories about their earlier days in religious life and about some of the Sisters who have gone before them. I had my first experience with snowshoeing about a month ago. I have learned a lot about the Benedictine charism through talking about it with the Sisters, reading about it, and also by observing it and doing my best to live it. My move to Duluth from Arizona was a blessing I never would have expected or even dreamed about before last fall, and now I cannot imagine being anywhere else.

Reading Partners Program

By Sister Almira Randall



rant Language Magnet School sits solidly on the corner of 8th Avenue East and 10th Street. Walk in almost any time of day while school is in session and you come upon an intriguing sight. Scattered here and there along the walls are small wooden two-seater benches, each one occupied by an adult and a child. What is going on? Children sent out of classrooms for some kind of misbehavior? Some type of experiment? No. It's the Reading Partners Program.

The program was initiated in 2001 by an organization called Men as Peacemakers. The goal is simple: pair each child in the building with an adult willing to commit to reading with a particular child one-half hour each week. Week after week I see them come—college students, working folks, seniors like me—stopping at classroom doors, picking up a child, and heading down the hall to a favorite reading nook. And they read all over—in the halls, on staircase landings, in the library.



Sister Almira Randall with Grant School reader

I became a Reading Partner seven years ago, and every year has been a brand new experience. I have always requested a first or second grader—the little folks with whom I am most comfortable. One year there was Lea, who said reading was B-O-R-I-N-G, until one day I discovered that she loved to sing. I found books that we could sing together, and, yes, there are such books, and eventually she forgot that reading was boring because we sang the books. Another year there was Ben, who danced and skipped down the hall with me. Ben loved reading, but only books of facts—no tales of fancy, please, and certainly no stopping along the way to look at pictures. So that year, when it was my turn to read to Ben, I read about gargoyles who ran around at night, animals who talked, and folk tales. And we took plenty of time to look at every picture.

And then there was Kelly, and Sarah, and Sam and—it's a great program, and I'm reminded often of that old anonymous adage: "A hundred years from now it will not matter much what sort of house I lived in or what kind of car I drove . . . But the world may be different because I touched the life of a child."

Highlights

Sister Grace Marie Braun BHS Trustee of the Year

By Sister Judine Mayerle



Sister Grace Marie Braun receives the Trustee of the Year Award from Lowell Larson of the Benedictine Health System Foundation

Photo By Andy Therrien

From the time the Benedictine Health System was founded in 1985 during her leadership as Prioress of St. Scholastica Monastery, Sister Grace Marie Braun, OSB, has recognized the importance of philanthropy to further the mission of the BHS. She helped to launch the Benedictine Health System Foundation in 1987 as one of the first new member organizations of BHS and served on the Foundation Board for more than 20 years, as chair since 2002. Her nomination as Trustee of the Year recognized that "her vision and commitment guided the BHSF through its initial development, times of budget constraints, and now through its revitalization of the organization."

Sister Grace Marie was named 2007 Trustee of the Year for her "extraordinary commitment and dedication to 'growing' philanthropy within the Benedictine Health System." Lowell Larson, President of the Benedictine Health System Foundation, recognized and thanked her "for her vision to create a divisional foundation to provide the

necessary philanthropic support to each BHS facility during the creation of the Benedictine Health System; for her patience, as leadership at BHS struggled with the issues of how to integrate philanthropy into the BHS culture and to determine how to appropriately support each facility's philanthropic efforts; for her leadership and constant encouragement as Board of Directors Chair during the past three years during which BHSF had unprecedented growth in the number of new Associated Foundations and annual contributions;" and for being a role model to everyone in the Benedictine Health System "as a person with a nurturing heart who shows great integrity and wisdom."

During Sister Grace Marie's most recent tenure as chair of the BHSE, several goals were achieved, including a dramatic increase in annual contributions, an increase in the fund balance, and an active grant development program with numerous applications being funded.

Sheep! Wool! Quilts!

By Sister Theresa Spinler



Left to right: Sister Theresa Spinler and Sister Mary Christa look over the quilts made for CHUM by Sister Mary Paul Ludwig and California friend, Patricia McAllister, IHM

Photo By Sister Patricia Anne Williams

Sheep, wool, quilts! These words do not sound unusual, but I think they are awesome when you hear how they all fit together like a puzzle that has waited over 60 years to be completed.

When I was a little child, I always remember the sheep on our farm because I used to love playing with the lambs. I also remember seeing my dad and brother shear all the adult sheep in the springtime. The wool was washed, brushed, and rolled up into bundles ready for use. Of course, my mother made all our bedding using the wool. Our bedrooms were quite cold, so we needed this extra warmth.

My mother died in 1982 still having some of the wool stored away, waiting to be used. When we had to clean out my parents' house, my sister Leona took the wool in hopes of using it for quilts. Well, my sister died in 2005, and the wool was still stored up in bundles. Her son David asked me if we could use the wool here at the Monastery. Knowing that Sister Mary Paul makes quilts for the needy every year, I was certain we could use it.

Sure enough, Sister Mary Paul and her friend, Pat McAllister, sewed many, many colorful, warm quilts and also used all the wool in some of them. The quilts were delivered to CHUM (Churches United in Ministry) where they were given to those who needed help to stay warm.

My mother and sister must be so pleased to see how the wool has finally been used, and certainly they are happy to know that the woolen quilts have brought much warmth and joy to others in need.

Highlights

Benedictine Weekend Experience April 11-13, 2008

By Sister Mary Catherine Shambour



Do you ever consider what you will be doing in the future? Would you like to make your life meaningful for both yourself and others? Would you like to make God the center of your life? Have you ever considered a religious vocation? Would you like to learn what religious life is about? Would you like to get a taste of what life is like in a Benedictine monastery? If so, and if you are a single, Catholic woman between the ages of 21-45, there is just such an opportunity for you to experience monastic life by spending the weekend of April 11-13 at St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth. Here you will have the opportunity to learn about discerning a call to religious life, about the *Rule of St. Benedict*, *lectio* (prayerful reading of the Scriptures), and religious life. You will have the opportunity of praying with the monastic community and meeting individual Sisters as well as time for personal prayer and reflection. The retreat will begin Friday with Evening Prayer and conclude after Sunday liturgy and brunch. There is no obligation or charge for the retreat, but registration is required by April 9. If you are interested or know of other women who may be interested, kindly contact Sister Mary Catherine for further information at mcshambour@duluthosb.org or 218-723-6646.

Both the Voice and the Body Sing Praise to God

By Sister Jeanne Ann Weber

"Let Everything That Has Breath, Sing Praise to God!" (Ps. 150)

The above psalm is the epitome of our liturgical prayer together. Through our singing, reading, and silence, we are drawn into a deeper contemplative spirit. However, because we are human, we also need music practices and workshops to remind us of basic liturgical and musical principles.

To help us in this endeavor, Brother Paul Richards, OSB, of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, was invited to give workshops to the community, schola, and cantors on Saturday, January 19. Brother Paul was the Director of St. John's Boys' Choir for 26 years. Presently he is the schola director and subprior at St. John's. Last July he was part of the team that addressed the Monastic Liturgy Forum and the Benedictine Musicians of the Americas in Yankton, South Dakota.



Photo By Sister Patricia Anne Williams

Brother Paul Richards, OSB, of St. John's Abbey, leads a group of Sisters at a workshop on liturgical and musical principles.

Brother Paul had three parts to his community presentation. He first talked of the use and care of the voice, which means care of the entire body. Secondly, he addressed the physicality of singing, which included hydration, posture, and correct breathing. Thirdly, having participated in our prayer, he addressed our particular community needs.

The community was very grateful for Brother Paul's affirmations, as well as avenues for continued growth. We hope that he may return to share his expertise, wisdom, and humor. His connections with us go back to his days at Marquette Elementary School in Virginia, Minnesota, where his 8th grade teacher from St. Scholastica Monastery affirmed his gift of music. We agree with her insight.

Monastery Mission and Vision

By Sister Estelle Charron



ur Benedictine heritage is awesome. Our pioneer Sisters, filled with faith and vision and courage, dared to journey to the Midwest at a time when frontier travel was difficult and dangerous. They established monasteries of women who would open schools and hospitals to serve both American Indians and immigrants of that time. Arriving in Duluth, the Sisters staffed elementary and secondary schools and established a college that has flourished and earned a reputation for excellence.

Now our environment—the needs of the Church and society—has changed. We Sisters, therefore, respond to current needs through new ministries and have found many creative ways to minister to spirit, mind, and body. It is true that some Sisters still teach, and a few are involved in hospital administration and chaplaincy. We also offer retreats and provide spiritual direction and outreach programs. We minister to prisoners by offering them prayer and worship services. We offer massage therapy, visit the homebound and elderly, and assist seniors with errands and appointments. Some Sisters are involved in parish ministries, and all Sisters take part in the ministry of prayer.

These changes have prompted us to examine not only our current mission, but also our vision for the future. In our formal statements, "Mission Statement" and "Vision Statement," we proclaim our historical Benedictine values in contemporary society. Though we no longer fully staff our health care institutions or college, our ministries in health care and education are sacred to us. So, we have entrusted the furtherance of these missions to carefully selected, highly competent lay people who share our values and work to fulfill our mission. Indeed, we have been blessed with administrative people who accept this sacred trust reverently and go forward confidently, knowing that we support them with prayer.

As Benedictines we are called to seek God and the reign of God. We are embarked on a lifelong search for God within Community, where we encounter God in the ordinary events of Community life and in our relationships with others. We seek always to walk in God's presence. The richness of monastic life empowers and sustains us. It is our desire to make the presence of God visible to others. Our Mission Statement and our Vision Statement declare our purpose and our faith in the future.

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 and the *Rule 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 entering the new millennium with openness, courage and joy, as we connect our 1500 year Benedictine tradition with the current needs of our 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.

In Loving Memory



Sister Sharon O'Neill (Mary Ellen), OSB, 86, St. Scholastica Monastery, died February 5, 2008, in Benet Hall at the Monastery. She was born January 24, 1922, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she attended St. Bridget's Elementary School. She graduated from Stanbrook Hall in Duluth, Minnesota, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from The College of St. Scholastica on June 8, 1954, and received certification for elementary education from the State of Minnesota. She also earned a diploma from the Child Care Institute at St. Thomas College, St. Paul, Minnesota. Sister Sharon entered the Duluth Benedictine community in 1940 and professed her monastic vows July 11, 1942. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee August 16, 1967, her Golden Jubilee July 26, 1992, and her Diamond Jubilee July 28, 2002. She was in the 65th year of her monastic profession.

Sister Sharon began her teaching career in St. Clement's in Duluth and eventually taught in other schools in Minnesota: Assumption Hall, Hibbing; St. Bridget's, Minneapolis; and Holy Name, Wayzata. From 1956-63 she was a Houseparent at St. James Children's Home in Duluth. She was one of the pioneering Sisters who went to the Colegio San Jose in Antofagasta, Chile, from 1964-1975. This was preceded by a training period at the Center for Intercultural Formation in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for courses in Spanish and cultural adjustment. During the time she was in Chile, she taught English in the primary grades and was Principal of the elementary grades from 1968-1975. Upon returning to Minnesota Sister Sharon again taught at St. Bridget's, Holy Name, and Assumption Schools, and in 1989 she returned to St. Scholastica Monastery. There she served as a Tutor in the Enrichment Center and assisted in the Monastery's Gift Shop, at the Information Desk, and in the Transportation Office. Her favorite hobbies were arts and crafts, and she created many items that were sold at the Monastery's annual Christmas sale.

Sister Sharon was preceded in death by her parents Edmund O'Neill and Helen (Bouchard) O'Neill, two brothers, George and Robert, and three sisters, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Catherine. In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by nieces, nephews, and special friends.

Please Pray for the Following Deceased Relatives and/or Benefactors

Rudolph Monsaas	5/2/2007	Charlotte Sadowski	12/27/2007
Eulalia Higgins	11/14/2007	Gerard Michael Poliquin	1/1/2008
Michael Joseph Schinn	11/15/2007	Vickie Syrjanen	1/10/2008
Agnes Jackson	11/19/2007	Beatrice Martin	1/17/2008
William Denny	12/4/2007	Margaret Mary Fider	1/23/2008
Vera Hartung	12/7/2007	Ann M. Stoegbauer	2/9/2008
+Sister Lelia's Hartung's Sister			
Bobbie G. Williams	12/17/2007		

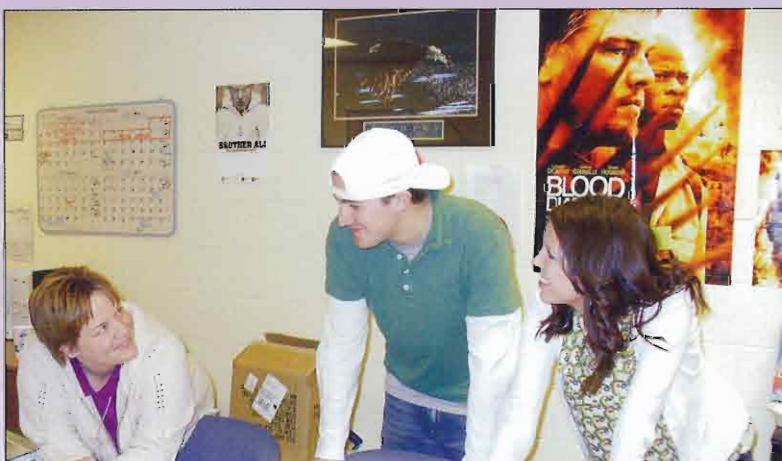
The Life of a Postulant

By Lisa Maurer

Early in the morning I can be found in the Adoration Chapel, praying silently side by side with other Sisters who are starting the day with a personal connection with God. Three times a day I gather with the Sisters for Community prayer, a special time to communally pray in word, song, and quiet thought. What a sacred way to start each and every day!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays I focus on studying theology along with other students at The College of St. Scholastica. Other days of the week I have the privilege of taking classes from different Sisters here at the Monastery. It is my honor to learn from them as I begin my journey as a Benedictine. Their ability and willingness to share knowledge and faith through book and example is such a blessing. When given the chance, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon I like to steal away to Benet Hall where I share coffee (or in my case a glass of ice water) and conversation with the Sisters who reside there. It is a privilege to learn the history of the Monastery from them. An hour a day I like to head over to the Burns Wellness Commons. It is my chance to exercise my body and free my mind, and it gives me a unique opportunity to connect with the college students. In any weather you may catch me walking through the woods, getting a chance to experience God and connect with the Holy in natural beauty.

I also enjoy spending time at Campus Ministry. Laughing, listening, praying, and worshipping with the young men and women who have so much to offer is a great benefit of being connected to the College. Being in contact and relationship with these students inspires me and enlivens my spirit.



Lisa Maurer (left) visits with CSS students.

Gratefully, my days are sprinkled with countless grace-filled moments. Building and developing relationships with the Sisters of St. Scholastica, balancing quiet times to sit in Chapel before our Eucharistic Lord with periods of work and study, finding times to rest, relax, have fun, all help me to awaken my mind and conscience to truths and ways of Benedictine Monastic Life. Throughout the day in all of these ways I am called to work on being me, my authentic self. For me, thanks be to God, St. Scholastica Monastery is the perfect place to do just that.

PATHWAYS



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