

2012-2013



Dear Friends of the Monastery,

Our 2013 Annual Report celebrates the interconnectedness of all who work to support the Monastery. Our theme of “many hands” shown on the cover continues throughout the Report, and is our way of putting our hands together to thank you so much for all you have done for us this past year. You, our family and friends, sustain our monastic way of life and our ministries by praying for us, volunteering, and donating to the Monastery.

This past year 1,570 contributions to the Monastery and to McCabe Renewal Center totaled \$970,859. There were 227 first-time donors. In addition, volunteers contributed 2,209 hours of service. An additional \$1,550 was given for vocations through the Father John Whitney Evans Fund that supports vocation efforts of the Diocese of Duluth, the Knights of Columbus, and the Monastery.



Community Support	\$ 818,982
Other (Benet Hall beds)	\$ 85,552
Retirement	\$ 30,559
Care of Infirm	\$ 27,250
McCabe Renewal Center	\$ 4,986
Benedictine Center of Spirituality	\$ 2,450
Twinning (Sister Monasteries)	\$ 800
Vocations	\$ 280
Total	<u>\$ 970,859</u>

Our summer 2013 celebrations included sixteen Sisters who marked Golden or Diamond celebrations. There were six Golden Jubilarians (50 years), and ten Diamond Jubilarians (five who celebrated 60 years, three who celebrated 70 years, one who celebrated 75 years, and one who celebrated 85 years of Monastic Profession). These Sisters' profiles begin on page 4. New life comes into the Monastery as well. We have two Sisters who made First Monastic Profession in July, and two women who became Novices in August. The Fall *Pathways* will feature these ceremonies. There are now seven women in Initial Monastic Formation, for which we are deeply grateful. We thank you for your support and your prayers as the hand of God continues to work the earth of their hearts and ours and of all whom God is calling to our monastic community.

We and all creation are the work of God's hands. Now in unimaginable love, Jesus asks us to be His hands, bringing His love and compassion, His healing and hope to all whose lives we touch. We join hands with you as we let God's grace flow through us to nurture the life and bind up the wounds of our world. Thank you for being generous partners with us in this sacred and essential work.

Lovingly yours in Christ with deep gratitude and prayer,

Sister Lois Eckes

Sister Lois Eckes

Prioress

COVENANT PEOPLE

“Covenant People” is the name of the recognition society that honors those individuals who have included the Benedictine Sisters Benevolent Association in their estate plans by naming it as a beneficiary of their will, life insurance policy, or charitable trust. The recognition society also includes names of people who have given the Monastery major lifetime gifts since the beginning of the Development Office in 1989. Covenant People names are inscribed in a book in the Eucharistic Chapel in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel and on the donor recognition board in the Monastery entry. Please let us know if you identify errors or omissions.

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 MARNICH- ZUMBRUNNEN



Golden Jubilarians celebrated July 20, 2013

Sister Arlene Kleemann

By Sister Lois Ann Glaudil



Sister Arlene Kleemann was born in Chicago, Illinois, to Evelyn and George, after older brother George William. She attended St. Timothy Elementary School run by the Benedictines from Duluth, Minnesota. She loved her classmates throughout these years, and, yes, she always loved her teachers. Sister Mary Martin Beringer taught Arlene's seventh and eighth grades, and during the summer between the two, Sister invited the eleven girls in the class to visit her motherhouse in Duluth. Sister had always talked about how wonderful it was and how beautiful Duluth was, so the girls hopped on the Burlington Zephyr train for a five-day visit. The Monastery was all that Sister had said it was, and the girls had an absolutely amazing time. I am sure they challenged the Sisters' peace and quiet a bit as they talked and laughed into the wee hours of the morning and opened doors with the word "Cloister" on them. One thing was sure—that visit planted the seed of a vocation in Arlene.

Though she attended a Chicago high school named St. Scholastica which was taught by the Chicago Benedictines, Arlene entered the convent in Duluth in 1961 and took her vows in 1963. Her new name was Sister Georgemarie.

Sister Georgemarie's first teaching assignment was at St. James in West Duluth. After six years there, she was asked to move to St. Timothy's (her home parish school in Chicago). She taught for six years and then took the job of principal there for the next sixteen years. It was a sad day when, after a million meetings, seven of the north side elementary schools merged. St. Timothy's was one of them, and St. Tims was not used as a site. It was hard to leave, but Sister moved on to St. Hilary's and was back at teaching. She taught at Pope John the XXIII, and is presently teaching at St. Mary of the Lake. St. Mary's is an inner city school and is quite challenging. Sister feels that teaching at any level is a fulfilling experience. When asked what she likes about teaching, her reply is "Everything! No day is the same. When a child asks at the end of a class if we really have to stop, or can we do more questions. . . that makes it all worthwhile." Sister Arlene, who went back to her given name some years ago, hates to see the end of the school year roll around because she hates to see her present class leave. She said, "Teaching takes lots of energy, patience, and love. Every day is one of optimism and hope. That is so important in these troubled times. Teaching is a way to touch the future."

Sister Judith Oland

The first time I met a Catholic Sister was in 1959 before my senior year of high school. A friend asked me to go on a retreat with her at St. Scholastica and I said, "I'd like to do that." This was a turning point in my life. I was awed by the life of the Sisters I met. There was a peace in this place and in these women that I wanted for myself. When I left the retreat I felt called to join the Benedictines of Duluth. I finished my senior year at Denfeld High School and decided to attend The College of St. Scholastica because I had only been in the Church for two years and was encouraged to wait before entering the Community. The next fall I was admitted to St. Scholastica Monastery as a Postulant with twenty-eight others. I was now called, "Miss Judith Ann" and in 1962 received the name of "Sister Justin" and the Benedictine habit. These first years were difficult yet meaningful, and I felt God was calling me to the Benedictine way of life. I graduated from The College of St. Scholastica with a major in elementary education and a minor in speech and drama.

Our class was the last to be in full habit for our Final Profession in 1966. At the end of the summer we began the changes Vatican II called us to pursue. It was an exciting and challenging time. I taught elementary education for nine years in the Duluth Diocese. In 1975 I began preparation for Pastoral Ministry. I returned to my baptismal name, Sister Judith. For thirteen years I ministered in the New Ulm Diocese in Pastoral Ministry, Chaplaincy, and eventually Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Supervision. I was asked to be in vocation ministry so returned to the Monastery in 1989. In 1991 I began part-time at St. Mary's Medical Center as a CPE supervisor in



St. Mary's CPE Program. I continue to serve part-time as St. Mary's CPE Coordinator/Supervisor and as the subprioress of the Monastery.

All I have said so far is about my external world and ministries. What about the peace I was searching for as a young nineteen-year-old girl? The life of a Benedictine is one of seeking God. I know I continue to seek God. It is a mystery to me why I have been called to be a Benedictine. I think some day it will be revealed to me when I see God face to face. Then I will understand as I have been understood. In the meantime I rejoice in God who has given me the grace to live as a Benedictine woman throughout these years. I have been privileged to live through a great time of transition in the Church and in religious life. Change will continue, and yet some things never change like God's faithfulness to be with us and Christ's peace which surpasses all understanding.

Sister Luella Wegscheid



I was born in 1943, so this year marks my 70th year of life along with my 50th year of vowed monastic commitment at St. Scholastica Monastery. Both of these events have been filled with countless blessings through the years.

I was raised on a farm north of Bluffton, Minnesota, where all family members were involved in daily chores whether in the house, in the barn, or at multiple jobs around the farm. This helped to teach responsibility. I feel that has been a blessing throughout my life, even though at times it didn't seem like a blessing, but just a lot of hard work.

In the fall of 1961 I responded to the call to join the Benedictine Sisters at St. Scholastica Monastery. What a change of lifestyle that was! But through the prayers of many people and the graces from God, I received the habit in 1962, and was given the name of Sister Luella (my mother's name which also celebrates the feast of my dad, Louis). I made my first monastic profession in 1963, and my perpetual profession in 1966.

With a degree in Elementary Education my teaching ministry began at Maryhill Academy in Aitkin, Minnesota. Other teaching assignments took me to Our Lady of Victory in Minneapolis, St. John's School in Duluth, St. Francis School in Brainerd, and St. Mary's School in Pine City. Having received my Masters in Nonpublic Administration in 1982, I was assigned to administrative responsibilities as the principal at St. Mary's School in Pine City and at Our Lady of Victory School in Minneapolis. In 1990 I was asked to serve in the Monastery Business Office as the accounts payable clerk. This position had challenges totally different from those experienced in the classroom, but showed me another way to serve the needs of our Sisters.

A rather unique opportunity presented itself in 1992 when I was offered the position of administrative assistant to the Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Duluth. The offer took a fair amount of discerning and discussion as it was so different from our other ministries. With the blessing of the Prioress I was able to accept the position, thus beginning a whole new chapter in my life. During my seven years at St. Paul's Church, I was instrumental in having a major renovation of the Church Office approved and accomplished, making the work space more efficient and more inviting to the daily visitors. The working relationship with the people of this Episcopal Church was filled with many blessings and was a positive situation for me as well as for the members of the church.

The experience at St. Paul's served me well when I was asked to serve as the administrative assistant to the Prioress and corporate secretary for our Community. I continue in this ministry which began in 1999. This makes for busy days but also the opportunity to serve the Sisters and meet many wonderful people.

I thank God for the many blessings and opportunities I have received from my family, my Community, and the many people with whom I have worked. On this occasion of my Golden Jubilee I marvel at the wonderful things the Lord has done in my life.

Sister Susan Fortier



Vatican II is in the marrow of my bones! It was nine months after Pope John XXIII launched a revolution by convening the Second Vatican Council that I professed my vows. My life as Sister Pacelli was predictable, orderly, and well defined. I presumed I would be wearing the Benedictine habit, living a happy, yet restricted life and teaching children forever. That time was short-lived, for soon after my profession religious life, once so stable, shifted, and the future was colored with uncertainty. Change was to become the hallmark of my life.

I was born in July, the month of independence, when flowers color the earth—beautiful. My mother told me I came into the world hungry, for soon after making my entrance I immediately wanted to eat. So began my life's journey on that warm summer day. My hunger for God, beauty, meaning, freedom, and love became the driving force in my life and put me on a path that has led me to this Jubilee year.

Like any commitment, my journey has not been without struggle. Together with others, I wrestled life out of chaos and pain. There were years of diminishment when I grieved the loss of so many friends who left Community to be of service elsewhere. It was a time of tumultuous change, upheaval, discord, and confusion but also one of expectancy, challenge, exploration, courage, and deep faith. In the decades that followed, I reclaimed my baptismal name. I slowly peeled away layers of inherited identity and embraced a spirituality that was in harmony with who I was as a Benedictine woman. With newfound freedom my world expanded in ways I never dreamed possible. Theological boundaries were stretched as I moved from teaching into hospital ministry. Currently, and for many years, I have been privileged to extend God's healing love to the suffering as chaplain at St. Mary's Medical Center, to teach children at Morgan Park, International Falls, South St. Paul, and Mahtomedi and to meet memorable people as I traveled within our country and abroad. In all of them I saw the face of God and from them I learned life's most important lessons.

In revisiting my past I see how each person, experience, and memory has become an exquisite design in the kaleidoscope of my life. These past 50 years have been full of cherished friendships with people of all ages and walks of life who have played an integral and meaningful part in my life. Both in heaven and on earth, they continue to color my life with their presence.

What initially drew me into religious life a half century ago continues to draw me today. The call to be faithful in my search for God has been and will always be central to my life. Though we have yet to realize the full flowering of Vatican II, I am grateful to have been a part of this tremendous evolution in our church and world that has shaped my life. From the altar of my life, I have given and received many blessings. My deepest thanks and love to you my family, friends, and community who have companioned me on my journey and who have given me the gift of sharing in yours.

Sister Jeanne Ann Weber

I was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, but spent most of my growing up years in North Minneapolis. I was the oldest of five children, had nurturing parents, and attended St. Bridget's Elementary School which was staffed by Benedictine Sisters from St. Scholastica in Duluth. I have many happy memories of friends, family, school days, and our neighborhood.

After high school graduation in 1961 from St. Margaret's Academy in Minneapolis, I entered St. Scholastica Monastery where I took formation classes, college classes, did charges, made new friends, and learned about the Benedictine way of life. During the 1960's I was a part of both the old and new Church—the Vatican II church. These were times of great changes in the Church, religious life, and society at large.

I became an elementary school teacher and later was involved with religious education and pastoral ministry. I ministered in Minnesota, Ohio, and Idaho. I then moved into retreat ministry at McCabe Renewal Center in Duluth from 1981-1993. Over the years I had an opportunity to meet many people of varied backgrounds and experiences. My life was enriched.



In Missoula, Montana, I had the privilege to give some care to my elderly parents, spend more time with my wonderful

OUR GOLDEN JUBILARIANS!

siblings and families, work with the abused, the addicted, and the poor, and serve on the board of St. Mary's Hospital and Clinics in Idaho. Those were years of giving, receiving, growing, having my heart stretched, and being grateful. Since 2005 I've been the Community liturgist—one who works with our Morning and Evening Prayer, the Eucharist, and other rituals. Since Liturgy is the heart of our Benedictine way of life, it is a privilege for me to be involved with this ministry and with many other Sisters who share a vast array of gifts.

I am also on the Vocation Ministry Team, the Council, and the Website Task Force of our Community, and the board of Cerenity Senior Care. I am on the team for the Shalom Spiritual Direction Training program. This May twenty-six participants graduated from our two-year program. It is a privilege to share with those who are on the journey of wholeness and holiness and who desire to companion others on this path.

I truly appreciate the beauty of nature in our area and on our grounds. I usually spend some time each summer at a state park or by a lake. In nature I feel connected with God, others, and our whole cosmos. I like music, reading, and lectures/workshops. There is such a vastness of opportunities right on this campus and in Duluth. I am renewed through personal and Community prayer, God's love for me, for all. I am blessed by the rhythm, life, and vitality of this Community. I am also blessed by family, friends, and the many opportunities and experiences that I have had. I had no idea of the amazing path that would unfold on this graced journey of Benedictine life with its sorrows, joys, and transformations.

Sister Renata Liegey

In Karthus, Pennsylvania, August 9, 1932, my parents Gladys and Hilary Leigey, welcomed me into this world and named me Margaret Louise (Peggy Sue). My older siblings (Dolores and Joe) and I attended first through eighth grades in a three-room school near our home and then commuted about 20 miles to Cooper Township High School where I graduated in 1950. Our family, devoutly Catholic, prayed the family rosary. I was a rough and tumble child, but my passion was art.

After high school I worked in New York and attended night classes at Art Students League in Manhattan with the dream of one day attending Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn. My physician advised a warmer climate, however, and I went to Arizona "for the winter," fell in love with the desert and spent the next ten years in Phoenix, training and working as an X-ray technologist. While there I also studied some with a sculptor, which I found gratifying.

Looking back on my life's journey, I identify with the poet, Francis Thompson's, *Hound of Heaven*. God certainly seemed to pursue me on my circuitous faith journey. At nearly age 30 I entered St. Scholastica Monastery and received the name "Renata" which means reborn.

I graduated from The College of St. Scholastica with a major in Art and then began my first 20+ years in Community in a variety of very interesting, enriching, and at times, challenging ministries! My first few years were spent in Phoenix living with our Sisters at St. Thomas the Apostle Convent and teaching Art at Gerard High School. From there I became part of a small group forming an ecumenical house of prayer called House of Peace in Winton, Minnesota. People of various faith traditions visited and worshipped with us. While there I also held a few classes in clay work.

I was next assigned to St. Gertrude's School for Developmentally Challenged Girls in Washington, D.C. I lived there and, with many dedicated and caring staff members, taught arts and crafts to girls ages 6-18 and was housemother to intermediate aged girls in a dormitory of 12-16 girls. My 18 years at St. Gertrude's were some of the happiest of times!

From Washington, D.C. I travelled to the "Land of Enchantment," (New Mexico) participating with other women and men religious in a 100-day sabbatical program at Sangre de Christo. It was here that I became aware that I suffered from clinical depression. My Community permitted me to go to Franciscan Center of Wholistic Living (FCWL) in St. Paul, Minnesota, for a very intense year and a half program which led to **new** life. I trained at the Minneapolis School of Massage and Body Work and became a certified massage therapist. I also became a T'ai Chi Chih (TCC) instructor. During the next 20 years I maintained my own business, Tranquil Touch, and traveled throughout the Twin Cities teaching TCC. During my last two years in the Twin Cities I graduated from a Spiritual Leadership and Direction Program, becoming a certified spiritual director.

"Rebirth" continues as three years ago I returned to live and minister at the Monastery. I gratefully give praise to our great God and Lord, Jesus, whose Spirit continues to animate and guide me along my journey.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OU

Diamond Jubilarians celebrated August 11, 2013

Sister Devota LaVoie 85 years

By Sister Lois Ann Glaudel and Sister Annella Wagner



Do you need a good laugh or to hear a story about the good old days? Then you must go see our Sister Devota LaVoie. She waxes eloquent when asked to tell about the 1918 Cloquet fire and how she and her family survived. Sister was 103 on July 27, 2013, but you would never guess that because of her energy.

In 1922 Delia LaVoie boarded the train for Duluth where she attended four years of high school and then entered St. Scholastica Monastery. Sister Devota began teaching in the elementary schools and in 1953 was sent to Phoenix, Arizona, where she became the founding principal of St. Thomas the Apostle School. She later went on to catechetical instruction, helping to initiate programs throughout the Duluth Diocese. In 1969 she moved to Brainerd to continue catechetical instruction. There she also began teaching about God to the residents of the Brainerd State Hospital. This was Sister Devota's favorite ministry. "I had a feeling toward those children that parents have sometimes with their own children. . . [it was] a precious assignment."

When she returned to Duluth in 1996 Sister Devota began her ministry in Benet Hall, the Monastery's infirmary. She read to the Sisters and wrote letters for them. She also organized rosary time, distributing and collecting the rosaries each time. She planned weekly movies and bingo games for the Sisters—indeed, Sister Devota became famous for hosting those weekly Bingo games.

Today Sister Devota is a resident of Benet Hall. A woman of deep faith and prayer, she is always ready to share a laugh or story of days gone by. Congratulations Sister Devota on these 85 years.

Sister Marilyn Micke 75 years



Sister Marilyn was born in 1918, the youngest of six children. She started her schooling in a one-room schoolhouse and many years later became Supervisor and then Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Duluth. In between she attended elementary school at Sacred Heart School in Cloquet and then high school at Villa Sancta Scholastica where she attended as an aspirant. Sister Marilyn began teaching after just one year of schooling at The College of St. Scholastica and "picked up" her bachelor's and master's degrees by attending college during the summers.

After 21 years of teaching Sister served as Diocesan Supervisor of Schools (10 years) and then Superintendent of Schools (13 years)—the first woman to hold such a title. She began working with other educators on a new educational project, Operation Aware (later the D.A.R.E. program), that taught 6th graders about peer pressure with issues such as drugs and bullying. From 1982 to 1992 Sister Marilyn served as the executive director of Operation Aware.

At the age of 74 Sister Marilyn "changed hats" and began working in the Monastery gift shop and then in the Business Office doing accounts payable. Retiring from that position in 2012, Sister Marilyn now embroiders towels for sale in the Monastery's gift shop and makes candies for the Christmas sale. She also visits Sisters on Benet Hall and assists with special projects.

Of her 75 years in Community, Sister Marilyn says, "I am happy that I have been able to serve that many years in religious life. I enjoyed everything I was given to do all these years."

Sister Johnetta Maher 70 years



I was born in Powers, Michigan, November 7, 1922, but lived in Watersmeet, Michigan, throughout my childhood. I was the second oldest of five children. Watersmeet was a small town with only one school but with great offerings. Following graduation in 1940 I pursued my plans to attend The College of St. Scholastica majoring in Home Economics Education. During my sophomore year I made the decision to enter the Benedictine Monastery at St. Scholastica. Following Christmas vacation I returned to Duluth to become a Postulant and continue my education, graduating in 1945.

My first teaching assignment was at Stanbrook Hall (1945-1949) followed by fifteen years at Cathedral High School. During the summers between 1958 -1962 I pursued a Master's degree in Education at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1964 I began a 32-year span of teaching and supervising student teachers at The College of St. Scholastica (Home Economics Department). I served as Chair of the Department from 1974 to 1995.

One of my accomplishments at the College was the planning and introduction of the ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) license program which had been mandated by the Minnesota State Department of Education. On the basis of this accomplishment, I was awarded a Burlington Northern Achievement Award.

Since retirement in 1997 I have continued to participate in College activities and have been involved in Monastery works. I care for the Heritage Room which contains historic furniture and art. As I look back over these 70 years I am filled with gratitude for the peace, love, and care with which I have been blessed.

Sister Elizabeth Ann Gilbertson

70 years



In scripture Jesus summoned disciples to walk with Him (Mt. 5:18-22). Today He continues inviting many to follow Him.

When very young, I was determined to be a "Sister," drawn by the religious who taught me. Much later I learned that this was to be God's call—not my choice. God chooses us, not we Him.

Our family home was Ashland, Wisconsin, where I was born on September 6, 1924. We moved to Duluth, then to Brainerd and once again to Duluth. On September 7, 1941, St. Scholastica Monastery accepted me as a postulant. The formation program prepared me for religious life. Teaching assignments gave me opportunities to further my studies and ready myself for what became a 30-year teaching career.

The College of St. Scholastica granted me a B.A., the State of Minnesota Life Certification for Teaching. Eighth grade was my favorite grade to teach, and Art and English were my best-loved subjects.

Other educational assignments I received included serving for six years as the Coordinator of the Diocesan Materials Center, which was open to all Diocesan schools. Also, St. Anselm's Priory in Washington, D.C., ran a 10-week summer day camp for boys where for four summers I taught Arts and Crafts. My last years of teaching were the nineteen spent moderating adult Bible studies at various locations including St. Ann's Residence, the McCabe Renewal Center, and a number of Diocesan parishes. I additionally taught at The College of Scholastica's Emeritus program, as well as instructing various groups of students and Sisters.

My retirement has been a time to pray for Diocesan parishes and to visit our Benet Hall Sisters. God has given me a long life in which to praise Him "in the house of the Lord" (Ps. 122:1). For so many blessings received, I thank Him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OU

Sister Mary Hope Novak 70 years Sister Agnes Alich 60 years

By Sister Sarah Smedman



Born in Virginia, Minnesota, November 26, 1923, Sister Mary Hope Novak, the seventh of nine siblings, attended Marquette School and graduated from Virginia High School before entering St. Scholastica Monastery as a postulant in 1941. Although Sister Mary Hope hoped to be a nurse like her sister Rose, she was assigned to teaching—first primary then upper grades, which suited her. For 13 years she took joy in preparing children for First Communion at Sacred Heart School, simultaneously teaching them Gregorian chant. Transferred first to Cloquet, then to other diocesan schools to teach upper grades, she found herself adaptable and a capable disciplinarian. Frequently driving Sisters to visit families of schoolchildren, she became sensitive to the impoverished background of many of her students.

In later years Sister Mary Hope's ministry took a unique turn when a doctor friend brought her several objects he had accepted as payment. After lengthy research on the value of the many objects and oddities people continued to bring her, she opened the *This and That Shop* at the Monastery, able to price and sell "this" and "that" and everything in between. Mornings she was in charge of the greenhouse and 20 College students who worked with her.

Now retired and a resident of Benet Hall, Sister Mary Hope feels well cared for—at the ring of her bell someone comes to attend to her needs. Looking back, Sister says, "Despite the many changes, 70 good years seem like yesterday. After all, seventy is just a number."



I was born June 10, 1932. Ultimately we were seven children (two boys, five girls). I went to a public school where we lived in a village close to the Canadian border—named "Border!" When I came to The College of St. Scholastica in 1950 it did not take me long to decide I should enter the Benedictines (1952). I did not yet have my B.S. degree when my superior sent me to Brainerd to teach 5th and 6th grades for one year. I then taught general science and French at the old Cathedral Junior High for three years before being sent to Marquette University in Milwaukee where I finished a B.S. and M.S. in inorganic chemistry. With my new degree I taught chemistry at St. Scholastica for three years, and then spent three years in Phoenix at Gerard High School. In 1968 I was off again, at Mother Martina's request, to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, to complete a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry. Research was a big piece of that degree, and I worked with Dr. Duward Shriver in studying monoxide compounds of transition metals to which I bonded Lewis acids, work I have continued to do over the years.

At CSS I taught inorganic chemistry, was Chair of the Chemistry Department, and supervised student research for chemistry majors. Grants from the Faculty Development Committee, the National Science Foundation, the 3M Company, Miller Dwan Hospital and the Duluth Clinic funded the research and publication. I also developed courses in Environmental Chemistry and Global Sustainability.

In 1995 I chaired a committee to hold our very first Remembering gathering to welcome former Sisters for a reunion. That was a wonderful gathering—and one which has continued over the years since.

This past year, after fall semester, when I taught our new teaching assistants about Chemistry labs, I formally retired from CSS.

Sister Mary Richard Boo

By Sister Margaret James Laughlin

60 years



Sister Mary Richard (Margie) Boo, born and raised in Pine City, Minnesota, was the third child in the family of Clinton and Julia Boo. One or more dogs were also members of the family. When the time came for college, she followed her mother's example and enrolled in The College of St. Scholastica in the fall of 1947. Sister Mary Richard graduated from CSS in 1951 and entered the Benedictine community that fall. She was immediately assigned to teach English in Stanbrook Hall High School where she remained until 1961 (excluding novitiate years), having also spent summers earning a Master's degree in English at St. Louis University in 1960. She began teaching in The College of St. Scholastica's Department of English in 1961.

In 1966 she earned a Ph.D. degree with an English major from the University of Illinois at Urbana, Illinois, and returned to Duluth to teach at St. Scholastica, but instead served as College president from 1967-1971. She then returned to teaching at CSS where in 1980 she was the recipient of the College's Lavine Award for Excellence in Teaching and in 1992 the Burlington-Northern Faculty award for Research and Writing. At the request of Prioress Clare Marie Trettel, she was granted a leave of absence to write the history of the Duluth Benedictine community as part of its 1992 centennial celebration. That book, *House of Stone*, was published in 1991. In June 1994 Sister Mary Richard was granted Professor Emerita status. In her retirement years she has continued to do free-lance writing and editing—and dog walking.

Sister Sarah O'Malley 60 years



Born in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, I was the youngest of seven children. From early days my desire to enter the convent had the support of my parents Mike and Ida, as well as my Franciscan elementary schoolteachers. This desire remained with me as I followed two older sisters to The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. In my sophomore year I decided to enter the Benedictine community and made my first profession in 1953.

Having majored in elementary education, I eventually taught in schools in Ohio and Minnesota. A graced turning point for me was studying theology at St. John's University during the exciting years of Vatican II. That experience led me into Pastoral Ministry, centering on the elderly, the sick, and the bereaved in Duluth's West End Catholic Parish.

For the past thirty years I have been fortunate to minister in Phoenix, Arizona, where Duluth Benedictines have had a long history. Developing Parish Ministry of Care together with dedicated laypeople brought the treasure of Vatican II to life. What a gift it has been to share this ministry. These years have been a most educational and rewarding experience.

In recent years Retreat Ministry has opened up in an amazing way. By reaching out to people in parishes and centers, I found a deepening of my own faith life, along with many shared blessings.

So the journey that started out so long ago as the youngest of the O'Malley family has brought me to my Diamond Jubilee. I am deeply grateful for my Benedictine Community, for God's loving guidance, and for the beautiful people whose lives have intertwined with mine over these many years. Yes, all of life is God's gift.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DIAMOND JUBILARIANS

Sister Mary Catherine Shambour
60 years



Sister Mary Catherine Shambour was born and raised in New Prague, Minnesota, and from 1947-1951 attended The College of St. Scholastica, earning a degree in English and Library Science. Inspired by the Benedictine Sisters, following graduation she entered the Benedictine Community making her first monastic profession in 1953 and final profession in 1956.

From 1954-1982 she taught English and served as librarian at both Duluth's "old" and "new" Cathedral High School (now Marshall School). A lifelong interest in languages led her to study and earn an MAT degree in Russian from Indiana University in 1976 which opened many opportunities to receive grants to study and travel in the Soviet Union during the "Cold War." In 1980, after teaching English in Moscow and Leningrad and seeing "the enemy" with different eyes, she became active in the Peace movement while living in Washington, D.C. from 1982-1986. From 1986-2005 she taught Russian at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, served on the East-West Commission of Pax Christi International, gave numerous lectures on Russia and persecution of the Church, made eighteen trips to the country as part of (or leading) church, student, and peace groups including doing volunteer work for the recovering Catholic Church in Vladivostok. She has also served on the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission, the Monastery's Council, boards of the Benedictine Health System and College of St. Scholastica, and since 2005 serves as Vocation Director for the Monastery. In summation, she considers all her life one great gift from God.

Sister Michelle Dosch *60 years*



I grew up on a farm near Finlayson, Minnesota, as the oldest of four children. Following graduation I entered the Benedictine Community in Duluth. After training in education during the year and in summer school, I was sent on missions to teach in schools in Minnesota, Ohio, and Arizona. While in Phoenix, I took a class relating to counseling and decided to go for a degree in counseling and guidance at Arizona State University.

I began my ministry in counseling at Gerard High School in Phoenix, followed by several years at The College of St. Scholastica. I then ministered at Port Rehabilitation Center where I counseled the clients in residence. I returned to Phoenix where I became director of Chysalis Shelter for battered women and children. The Shelter occupancy increased rapidly, and there was housing for over 50 women and children in two shelters—one in Phoenix and one in Scottsdale.

When I returned to the Monastery, I was assigned to formation ministry and was vocation director for several years. I then moved to a training program for spiritual direction. After this training I went to Grand Rapids, Minnesota, for three years and gave spiritual direction to members of the community. I then went to Missoula, Montana, and with several Sisters formed a team that ran a spiritual direction program for about 25 people from the different churches in Missoula.

The same team proposed a program to the Prioress of St. Scholastica Monastery, and a new program was begun in the Fall of 2007. The team is beginning the fourth "class" of this two-year program in September 2013.

I am happy doing these ministries and continue serving in Formation as the Director of Postulants and Novices.

St. Scholastica Monastery

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Mission

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.

During the past year Sisters have served in the following ministries:

Architectural Services, Duluth/Regional
Benedictine Center of Spirituality, Duluth, MN
Benedictine Health Center, Duluth, MN
Benedictine Health System, Duluth, MN
Cathedral School, Superior, WI
CHUM (Churches United in Ministry),
Duluth, MN
College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN
Damiano Center, Duluth, MN
Essentia Health System, Duluth, MN
Home Care, Alexandria, VA
McCabe Renewal Center, Duluth, MN

Music Ministry, Local Churches
Parochial Schools, Duluth, MN
Pastoral Ministry, Phoenix, Scottsdale, and
Anthem, AZ
St. Mary of the Lake School, Chicago, IL
St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic Health System,
Duluth, MN
St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN
St. Thomas the Apostle School, Phoenix, AZ
Spiritual Direction Training/Formation
St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN
Transcultural Nursing Society, Livonia, MI