

PATHWAYS



NEWSLETTER OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

DULUTH MINNESOTA

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"And God saw that it was good."

By Sister Almira Randall

Autumn has a maturity that comes with the passage of time, of seasons well spent. She is content with what has been and what is now. One notices a sense of quiet satisfaction that allows her to be a spendthrift with her colors, her smells, with the fruits of the earth. She has a wisdom born of an easy acceptance of her place in the scheme of things. Autumn has a certain charm.

"Then Sings My Soul"

(Hymn: How Great Thou Art)

Autumn is a harvester—of gardens and hillsides, of tangy red apples, truckloads of pumpkin and squash, yellow-headed tansy and goldenrod, Japanese lanterns, and stiff branches of bittersweet.

"Praise God, every plant that grows"

(Daniel 3)

Autumn is a hustler—"Time to close up the cabin, look through the winter clothes, see what fits, heed those back-to-school ads. Might be a good time to rake the leaves, take in the garden, pickle some beets. It's time."

"Work For the Night Is Coming"

(1864 Hymn)

Autumn is a hoarder—of precious memories . . .
SPRING: robin fledglings just learning to fly, seeds newly planted in the soft dark earth, frogs orchestrating the ponds. SUMMER: hot lazy days, picnics on the beach, swimming, fireworks in the park, flowers bursting with color.

"These are a few of my favorite things"

(The Sound of Music)

Autumn is a nurturer—of industrious squirrels gathering supplies for the long, cold winter; of bears lumbering off to hidden places of hibernation, of birds everywhere answering the ancient call to travel paths of migration to warmer habitats.

"Praise God, all creatures here below"

(Doxology)

Autumn is a humorist—playing with the wind, dancing with the leaves, chuckling at the children. She ushers in the holidays: Halloween—witches, jack-o-lanterns, trick-or-treaters. Thanksgiving—turkey, cranberries, family get-togethers, stories around the table, laughter.

"For the work of your hands I shout with joy."

(Psalm 92)

Autumn is an optimist—aware of days slipping away, knowing winter will replace her, realizing her beauty will fade. Her trees will surrender their leaves, gardens and hillsides will sleep under the snow, and cold will rule dark, cheerless days. But—Autumn is an optimist. She knows it's all part of the plan, the way of things. And she will be back. Oh yes, she will be back.

"All is well and all is well"

(Hildegard of Bingen)

Autumn is a prayer—of faith that the bitter winds of winter will not bite too deeply into the earth where seeds, bulbs, roots lie sleeping, that the snow will fall gently, deeply, to cover the garden, that the skeleton trees may be resilient in the domineering blasts around them. Autumn is a prayer of love, giving thanks for it all. Amen. Amen.

"God is my strength and my song"

(Psalm 118)



A Letter from the Prioress



Dear Friends,

My heart is full to overflowing as I write to you and search for words that will express even a small portion of that fullness. As many of you know, Sister Mary Charles McGough went Home to God on September 2, 2007. Sister Mary Charles' death followed so closely the deaths of Sister Mary David Gruden, Sister Matthew Laurich, and Sister Barbara Ann Tushar. With their families, our monastic community, and countless friends who mourn their deaths, I am also filled with a deep, healing peace, knowing that, for them, death was a birth to Eternal Life with God and all the angels and saints.

Sister Mary Charles' work was, of course, her art, and she was particularly known for her icons. Fittingly, the theme of our August Commissioning Day celebration this year was "We are all icons of Christ." In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul writes, "We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things God has created us to do from the beginning" (Ephesians 2:10). Each of us is God's work of art in the process of becoming, through Divine grace, a privileged and unique place of God's Revelation. As God's precious works of art, we become icons—tangible images of the living God. The hand of the Divine Artist at work within each of us is manifest in our relationships and our life work. In the homily he gave at Sister Mary Charles' funeral September 7, Father Gabriel Baltes said, "From classroom to studio, to churches and synagogues, to homes and hearts, her artistic creations, and especially her icons, became not only ways of teaching, but vehicles of revelation that inspired faith and caused people to bow in wonder and awe." In their lives as well, Sisters Mary David, Matthew, and Barbara Ann revealed the presence of Christ and inspired others by their self-giving.

Sister Mary Charles believed that art had, in her own words, "the power to teach, to heal, to comfort, to challenge, to entertain, and to help people pray." Convinced (as Dostoyevsky said) that "the world will be saved by beauty," Sister used her magnificent, God-given talents to show that love and compassion, truth and goodness, and a passion for justice and peace could all be expressed and evoked through beauty. One of the books that nurtured and affirmed Sister Mary Charles' creative spirit in the last several years of her life was *Beauty: The Invisible Embrace* by John O'Donohue. As you read the following excerpt, I hope you will recognize in it as I do, the voice of Sister's own noble soul, now one with Divine Beauty, of whom she gave us countless glimpses in the grandeur of her life and work. I hope you will hear as well the voices of all our beloved ones who have gone Home to God and are embraced by Divine Beauty forever:

The human soul is hungry for beauty; we seek it everywhere – in landscapes, music, art, clothes, furniture, gardening, companionship, love, religion, and ourselves. . . . When we experience the Beautiful, there is a sense of homecoming. . . . We feel most alive in the presence of the Beautiful for it meets the needs of our soul. . . . The time is now ripe for beauty to surprise and liberate us. Indeed, it is part of the disturbance of the Beautiful that her graceful force dissolves the old cages that confine us as prisoners in the unlived life. Beauty is not just a call to growth, it is a transforming presence wherein we unfold towards growth before we realize it. Our deepest self-knowledge unfolds as we are embraced by Beauty, the other name for God.

From *Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*

John O'Donohue

Lovingly with daily prayer and deep gratitude for God's precious work of art that you are,

Sister Lois Ecker

Prioress

Profile: Sister Agatha Riehl

By Sister Margaret Clarke

During The College of St. Scholastica Alumni Weekend, June 22-24, Sister Agatha Riehl received the Scholastica Inspiration Award, honoring “a faculty or staff member whose encouragement and care for students has had a positive influence on their lives.” This is the most recent of a number of awards that Sister Agatha has received during 53 years of teaching at CSS, where she is remembered as a favorite teacher by many former students.

Natalia Riehl was born on a farm in North Dakota to German-speaking parents, one of a family of seven children. After completing her elementary school education in the local one-room school-house, she came to Duluth to Villa Sancta Scholastica Academy for high school as an aspirant to the Benedictine community. She entered the community upon graduation from high school and began studies at CSS. In 1942 she graduated from the College with a major in Home Economics.

In the same year, Bishop McNicholas, the former Bishop of Duluth and then Archbishop of Cincinnati invited the Duluth community to send several Sisters to the recently-established Institutum Divi Thomae for advanced education in cancer research. Sister Petra Lenta was chosen by the prioress as a likely candidate, and Sister Agatha was assigned to go with her, in spite of her limited background in chemistry. Three years later, both she and Sister Petra had completed masters degrees in biochemistry, and together they returned to CSS where they set up a cancer research laboratory on the ground floor of Tower Hall. Over a fifteen-year period, they published several papers on their research, as well as teaching chemistry courses. When the lab was discontinued, Sister Agatha was asked to get a Ph.D. (the North Central Association had urged the College to have more doctoral faculty members). She went to Catholic University to work on a doctorate in chemistry. In 1966, with doctoral degree in hand, she returned to full-time teaching at CSS. In 1972 she was appointed chair of the Chemistry Department and then in 1976, chair of the Natural Science Division.

In her years of teaching freshman chemistry as well as advanced courses, she was known among the student body as the teacher who could make a formidable course seem understandable and was widely beloved by her students—so much so that when the Lavine Award for Teaching Excellence was instituted in 1978, she was the logical choice to be its first recipient. As one of her former students says, “One of the attributes that drew me to her and that I still admire so much is her dedication to all people. She worked so hard as a teacher and truly gave her life to the students.” Her retirement from college teaching was in 1998.

Sister Agatha had hoped to begin her career as a home economist, but God and the prioress had other ideas. Nevertheless, she continues to love sewing, and is well known in the community as the person to whom one goes when in need of alterations. She has contributed many handmade articles to the Monastery gift shop. Her many other contributions to college and community life are too numerous to mention here. She remains, for many of us, a shining example of the efficacy of our vow of obedience, or, as Sister Agatha told one interviewer, “God has provided me with opportunities and I followed them.”



Photo by Ann Stoegebauer

Sister Claudia Riehl, Sister Agatha Riehl, and Sister Lois Eckes pose with the Scholastica Inspiration Award.

Counting Our

By Sister Mary Catherine Shambour

Each day at the close of Evening Prayer, our Community gives thanks to God for the countless blessings we have received and also asks God to inspire women and men to respond to His call to serve Him in religious life and the priesthood. This year God has blessed us with four women who are responding to that invitation, each at a different stage of the four steps along the journey to monastic profession.

June 30, 2007: In a rite described in the *Rule of St. Benedict*, Gretchen Johnston from Superior, Wisconsin, knocked on the doors of the Monastery, formally announcing to the prioress and assembled Community her desire to become an Affiliate with the Community. During this pre-formation program, which may last from six months to two years, Gretchen will regularly visit the Monastery, pray with the Community, and meet with her director as she continues to discern the truth of her call and her potential for monastic life while she continues in her current position as organist and director of music at Cathedral of Christ the King School in Superior. At the end of this period she can request to be accepted into the Postulancy. Gretchen is originally from Cotton, Minnesota. She received her bachelor's degree from The College of St. Scholastica and master's from the University of Missouri in Columbia.



Photo by Andy Therrien

Gretchen Johnston

September 1, 2007: Having completed six months as an Affiliate, Lisa Maurer from Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, in a special ceremony at Evening Prayer, was received into the Community as a Postulant, the first stage of initial formation—a period of transition to monastic community life. In the ceremony Lisa received the large Benedictine cross traditionally worn by Postulants, a set of the Community's prayer books for Liturgy of the Hours, and an apron (formerly known as a scapular) embodying the Benedictine motto "Work and pray." Lisa now lives in the Monastery and participates in the common life of the Sisters while taking classes in Scripture, Psalms, and Benedictine history. After a period of six months to two years, Lisa may request acceptance into the Novitiate. Lisa graduated from Southwestern State in Marshall and has experience as both teacher and athletic coach.



Photo by Andy Therrien

Lisa Maurer



Blessings

August 22, 2007: After completing one year of Postulancy, Luce Dionne, an architect from Boston, Massachusetts, was received into the Novitiate in a ceremony at Evening Prayer, during which she was given the name Sister Luce Marie. The Novitiate is a period of intense spiritual formation for commitment to the Benedictine way of life through prayer, study and discernment, as well as through community life and community service. As prescribed by Canon Law, the length of the Novitiate is a minimum of twelve months, after which the Novice may request permission of the Community to make First Monastic Profession. Sister Luce Marie's ministry will be at the Monastery. Sister Luce Marie is originally from Boston and Maine and graduated from Catholic University of America with a degree in architecture.



Photo by Sr. Edith Bogue

Sister Luce Marie Dionne

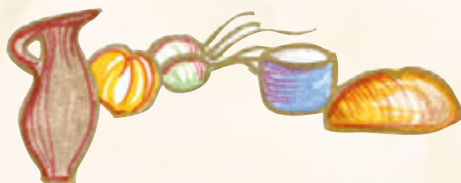
September 8, 2007: Sister Dorene King, originally from California, a former Lutheran pastor and convert, who completed the first stages of Initial Formation at Sacred Heart Monastery in Richardton, North Dakota, was granted permission to transfer. She made her First Monastic Profession with St. Scholastica Monastery in a ceremony at Evening Prayer. First Monastic Profession is a public expression of intention to seek and find God through the threefold promise of stability, fidelity to the monastic life, and obedience. (Christian monastic tradition holds that celibate chastity and monastic poverty are also indispensable to our life in a monastic community.) The duration of First Monastic Profession is three to six years, after which the candidate and the Community decide if the Sister is ready to embrace Perpetual Monastic Profession. During this period Sister Dorene will continue to receive guidance in integrating Benedictine values into her life, while she serves as Senior Consultant of Spiritual Care for the Benedictine Health System.



Photo by Andy Therrien

Sister Dorene King

All these women are in Initial Formation, and the Community is grateful that there are signs of new life and women willing to join us in committing their lives to God. As we count these blessings, we continue to pray for their perseverance and for others to be inspired by their example so that "in all things God may be glorified."



Tanzanian

By Sister Beverly Raway



Sister Beverly Raway (front right) and the 2007 group pause for a photo on the steps of St. Joseph Cathedral in Dar es Salaam on the second day of their trip.

As I walk the halls at the Monastery, I'm greeted with, "Welcome back." "How was your trip to Tanzania?" I respond with "fabulous" and "wonderful," but words alone can't capture the depth of the experience and the way it touched our hearts. So I'm happy to share this travelogue.

Our group of fourteen left Minneapolis on Saturday afternoon, June 30 and arrived in Dar es Salaam on Monday morning, July 2. Although we were tired, the exhilaration of new sights, sounds, and people kept us going all along the way. Arriving on African soil for the first time led some to "whoo hoo" in American-style exuberance, just audible to the others in the group, so as not to alarm our African traveling companions. There was a whirl of events in Dar Es Salaam: exchanging money, visiting points of interest, shopping, and watching the dancers at the International Trade Fair.

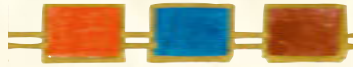
We became accustomed quickly to the bustling traffic, which, as one traveler put it, "seems quite chaotic until you figure out that you can do whatever you want as long as you honk first." A highlight for all of us was a walk along darkened streets to visit the Sisters in Kurasini. They prepared a supper for us served picnic style under the stars. This was a time for bonding of the group (which was "powerful and comforting") before going our separate ways to work with the Sisters in Imiliwaha and Chipole.

At St. Gertrude's in Imiliwaha, alumni Luke Moravec, Tracy Bockbrader and Margaret Chapman, recent graduate nurse Lisa Cary, and senior nursing students Kadian Hofstad and Shayla Spates and I were overwhelmed with the welcome of the Sisters. They sang and danced and beat the dusty road with green branches as we arrived. All were presented with flowers and then led to tea. We settled in quickly and found out where help was needed. Routine tasks included shelling peas, cleaning rice, peeling potatoes, and washing clothes by hand for the children in the orphanage. Lisa and Kadian worked many hours in the dispensary helping with the intake of patients and assessment of those who were admitted for treatment. They also participated in the immunization of children in a nearby village. All took their turn working in the orphanage where we bathed the children, carried the infants for walks on our backs, and learned songs in Swahili that the children taught us. Luke was recruited to work in the carpenter shop sanding furniture the Sisters were building, Tracy taught chemistry in the secondary school, Margy helped out with bread-baking, and several (including me) mended and sewed children's clothing using a treadle sewing machine.



Orphan Children at Imiliwaha get some help peeling potatoes for the evening meal from senior nursing student Kadian Hofstad.

Connection



CSS Student Anna Geiszler carrying an orphan child in Chipole

The group at St. Agnes Convent in Chipole consisted of faculty member Elizabeth (Buffy) Riley, alumnae Bernie Schmidt and Nancy Young, new graduates Lacy Olesiak and Shana Fidely, and senior nursing students Anna Geiszler and Mary Hauser. During the drive to Chipole everyone was attentive while passing the villages consisting of small, one-room brick huts made of the red clay of the land and roofs consisting of bundles of the tall grasses that bent as the vehicle passed on the unpaved road. For about every ten huts there was an area with a spigot, and gathered around this were people filling buckets. Questions flew around the land cruiser—How many people live in these villages? How many of these villages do the Sisters in Chipole care for? Do all of the children attend school in Chipole? How many schools are there for these villages? Do the students who attend the secondary school in Chipole live there or do they walk every day? How many children are in the orphanage at Chipole? These questions and many others were answered over the next two weeks.

The travelers in Chipole divided their time between observing and then working in the dispensary and lab, teaching students numbering slightly over 30 in the kindergarten, caring for the 36 children in the orphanage, teaching music to the Sisters in the evening in the chapel, assisting with

computer-related problems and opportunities, and working in the gardens. Alumna Nancy Young spent countless hours with Sister Marislawa, the guide and mentor of the group, coming up with innovative ways to use the internet to reach people who either need help or are in a position to help the Benedictines in their work. Anna Geiszler helped deliver a baby. Shana, Lacy, and Mary worked tirelessly in the orphanage. Bernie and Buffy taught music. All of them hoed, fertilized, planted, and cared for garden plots.

Our time flew by... and then, leaving the Sisters and all of the children was difficult. But as we remember them, we say “asante sana,” thank you for taking us into your hearts. Those of us who experienced this trip give thanks for the support of St. Scholastica Monastery, The College of St. Scholastica, all of our donors, and all who offered prayers for our safety.



Sister Beverly Raway (right) with Sister Beneto, the baker, at St. Agnes Convent, Chipole, brushing vegetable oil on the freshly baked buns prepared for breakfast and tea time.

Highlights

Sisters Congratulate St. Benedict's Monastery on its Sesquicentennial

By Sister Luella Wegscheid

On Sunday, July 22, thirty-three of our Sisters traveled to St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota, for a Sesquicentennial (150 years) Heritage Day celebration. Sisters from the Federation of St. Benedict, the eleven Monasteries founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Minnesota; Sisters from other religious communities; and special invited guests were present. When we entered the Gathering Space to their chapel, we were warmly greeted by the Sisters and a spectacular floral arrangement of 150 yellow roses. The celebration of the Eucharist opened with a procession of banners carried by representatives from St. Mary's, Pennsylvania, the motherhouse of the Sisters from St. Joseph; from the birthplace of Mother Benedicta Riepp, the foundress of St. Benedict's (carried by Prince Philipp von der Leyen of Waal, Germany); and from Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, Atchison, Kansas, founded in 1863; St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, Minnesota, 1892; Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, North Dakota, 1947; St. Bede Monastery, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 1948; St. Paul's Monastery, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1948; St. Benedict Monastery, Tanshui, Taipei, Taiwan, 1952; St. Placid Priory, Lacey, Washington, 1952; St. Benedict's Monastery, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, 1985; St. Martin Monastery, Nassau, Bahamas, 1994; Mount Benedict Monastery, Odgen, Utah, 1994; and Monasterio Santa Escolastica, Humacao, Puerto Rico, 2000. The jubilant music, readings, and reflections were fitting for this momentous and joyous occasion.



Sister Lois Eckes (center) holds the banner of St. Scholastica Monastery, one of the communities founded by St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

Photo by Sr. Edith Bogue



Guests surround the arrangement of 150 yellow roses in the Gathering Space.

Stanbrook Reunion

Saturday, July 14, 2007 some 45 alumnae from several anniversary classes attended the Stanbrook Hall Reunion. Guests enjoyed an afternoon reception, tours, and a PowerPoint presentation.



Photo by Andy Therrien

Highlights Continued

Rome Pilgrimage

Most of us think a pilgrimage is a trip to a religious site or sacred land, and that it is, but this past summer I discovered it is so much more. I left Duluth not knowing how sacred my journey to Italy and to my Benedictine roots would become. Every day, while walking with paradox and beauty, a Litany of Gratitude grew in me. As I tasted the dust of the catacombs, the Roman Forum, and the ancient city of Pompeii, I was reminded that year after year, layer by layer, the Divine Archeologist unearths the treasure of my life. I believed healing for a broken world was possible when I saw ancient art restored to its original beauty. The lessons of life unfolded within me as I moved forward each day with a world-wide community. Like the rose of summer, LOVE stretched my soul open and saturated me with Divine Presence. I went to Italy and found Italy in me.

Sister Sue Fortier



Sister Jean Maher (left) and Sister Sue Fortier
outside the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome

Each of our days in Italy was unique and wonderful. Allow me to share one of those days with you. June 21, the first day of summer and the anniversary of my father's death, was the day our group gathered at the Church of St. Scholastica in Norcia, Italy, to renew our vows together. As I reflect on the experience of standing in a circle with 31 Benedictine women from all over the U.S., Australia, and Canada, I realize that each of us was surrounded by the presence of our communities who made it possible for us to be there. Another invisible circle embracing us was that of St. Scholastica and all the great Benedictine women from ages past who prepared the way for us and who continue to inspire us.

Sister Jean Maher

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

Miriam P. Manning 1/16/07
William W. Hartney 2/13/07
Katherine Falkowski 2/18/07
Anne Tarnowski 4/19/07
Bette Mae Scharnott 5/6/07
Marguerite Schuler 5/12/07
Irene C. Valentini 5/12/07
Thomas Graham 5/22/07
Stella Thillman 6/4/07
Erland Wang 6/21/07
William "Bill" Caldwell 6/23/07
Helen T. Carlson 6/30/07
+Sr. Helen Claire Arts' and
+Sr. Vivian Arts' sister
Rita Colman 7/4/07

Sr. Jeanne Marie Lortie's sister
Julius F. Wolff 7/13/07
Theodore Lowinski 7/07
Theodore Kroening 7/15/07
Sr. Mary Christa Kroening's brother
Irene W. Baxter 8/22/07
Robert C. Baxter 9/1/07
Sr. Marguerite Baxter's brother
Paul Sadler 9/4/07
Sr. Mary Sarto Sadler's brother
Barbara Thomas Inouye 9/9/07
Katherine Filozi 9/11/07
Mary Jo (Scanlon) Berglund 9/11/07
Lucille Bradish 9/13/07
George Coon 9/20/07

In Loving Memory



Sister Mary David Gruden, OSB, 85, of St. Scholastica Monastery, died Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at the Monastery. She entered the Duluth Benedictines on September 1, 1940, and professed monastic vows in 1942. She was in her 65th year of monastic profession. Sister Mary David was born December 25, 1921, in Gilbert, Minnesota, and received her high school education at Stanbrook Hall, Duluth. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from The College of St. Scholastica and a Masters in Hospital

Administration from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1943 Sister Mary David taught at Our Lady of Sacred Heart in Cloquet, Minnesota. Beginning in 1944 she became a student in nurses' training at St. Mary's Hospital, Duluth. Later she served in Minnesota at St. Joseph's Hospital, Brainerd; Miners' Hospital, Crosby; Hibbing General Hospital, Hibbing; as well as at St. Joseph's Hospital, Rice Lake, Wisconsin. In 1968 she returned to Duluth where she was the administrative assistant in the Education Office and also worked in the Business Office and tutored mathematics students in the Enrichment Center at St. Scholastica Monastery. Her most recent assignment was as bookkeeper for the Monastery Books and Gifts Shop.

Sister Mary David shared her many talents with the Community of St. Scholastica Monastery. Those who worked with her attest to the fact that, while as a nurse she was efficient, she never lost her compassionate touch. Others found her an excellent hospital administrator. Her side interests were wide and varied. In her early years she was very athletic and an excellent ballplayer. She also became an accomplished musician and could play any musical instrument, having special talent for the violin. Sister Mary David also had a beautiful alto voice. She was always an avid reader; she loved word games and working in the garden. Her abilities even extended to mechanical things, so she was often called on to "fix" things. During her last serious illness, she retained an affinity for fried chicken wings and potica, and she never lost her sense of humor or her gift of comforting others.

Sister Mary David was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Frances (Shepel), her brother Frank and her twin sister, Anne Marie Schmitt. She is survived by a nephew, cousins, and the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.



Sister Matthew (Angela) Laurich, OSB, 96, died Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at St. Scholastica Monastery. Born May 30, 1911, in Hibbing, Minnesota, she was one of eleven children born to Matthew and Helen (Dolinar) Laurich. She attended McGolrick Institute and Hibbing High School and lived in Hibbing until she entered the Duluth Benedictine Community August 31, 1932. On July 11, 1934, she professed monastic vows. She was in the 73rd year of monastic profession.

Her many years of service as a cook and housekeeper took Sister Matthew to a number of places in Minnesota: Holy Name Convent, Wayzata; St. Bridget's Convent, Minneapolis; St. Peter's, Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, St. James, and Cathedral High School Convents, all in Duluth; St. Benedict's and St. Leo's Convents, Hibbing; and St. Joseph's Convent, Cloquet. She also served at St. Timothy's Convent, Chicago, Illinois.

She brought real artistry to her food preparation as well as happiness to the Sisters through her tireless attempts to make things that would please them. She also showed an interest in their work and activities. Sister Matthew felt it was important that meals looked as appetizing as they were tasty. Her dainty roses atop divinity and miniature cream puffs will not be forgotten! In 1990, while at St. Bridget's, she received an invitation from Archbishop Roach of St. Paul/Minneapolis to attend an event which publicly honored all religious in the archdiocese who gave such selfless service in the domestic/food ministry. Sister Matthew said her life had always been happy and that she advised everyone else to be happy. A quiet peace and joy emanated from her. In her later years, she who had ice-skated and polka danced with the best of them in her youth, found difficulty walking even short distances. Never one to complain or indulge in self-pity, Sister Matthew bore these trials with peaceful resignation and even rejoiced that her enforced confinement brought her more time for prayer than she had had in her active years.

Sister Matthew's parents, five brothers (Matt, Ludwig, Joe, Frank, and Henry), and three sisters (Frances Turk, Pauline Solmonson, and Ann Debelak) preceded her in death. In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, Sister Matthew is survived by her sisters, Helen Parich and Jennie Perpich, both of Hibbing, as well as by many nieces and nephews and special relatives and friends.



Sister Barbara Ann (Antoinette) Tushar, OSB, 85, St. Scholastica Monastery, died on Monday, August 27, 2007, in Benet Hall at the Monastery. She entered the Duluth Benedictine Community in 1939 and professed monastic vows in 1941. She was in the 66th year of her monastic profession.

Sister Barbara Ann was born on September 27, 1921, in Elcor (Gilbert), Minnesota. She received her high school education at Villa

Sancta Scholastica, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from The College of St. Scholastica, and received certification for elementary education from the State of Minnesota. In 1941 Sister Barbara Ann began teaching primary grades at St. Clement's and later at St. Lawrence's and St. John's, all in Duluth. She taught primary grades in Grand Rapids at St. Joseph School; Grades 2,3,4, and 5 in Cincinnati at Our Mother of Sorrows School; and Grade 2 at St. Timothy in Chicago and at St. Leo in Hibbing. She served as house parent at St. James Children's Home, Duluth, and was teacher and prefect at St. Gertrude's School in Washington, D.C. In 1992 she retired from full-time teaching, tutored at St. Bridget's School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and helped with food service for St. Bridget's Convent.

Sister Barbara Ann returned to St. Scholastica Monastery in 1993 where she served part-time in the Monastery food service and assisted with craft work for the Monastery gift shop. Sister Barbara Ann loved cooking so much that, after a full day of cooking at the Monastery, she would go home to the West End where she was living at the time and cook the evening meal there as well.

Sister Barbara Ann was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Gertrude (Yerasha); four brothers, John, Paul, William, and Frank; three sisters, Mary Pirjevec, Gertrude Zakrajsek, and Sister Sylvia Tushar, OSB. Besides the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by one sister, Dolores Schweiger of Gilbert; a sister-in-law, Julie Tushar; and many nephews and nieces.



Sister Mary Charles (Mary Helen) McGough, OSB, 82, of St. Scholastica Monastery, died on Sunday, September 2, at the Monastery. She entered the Duluth Benedictines on September 8, 1943, and made her first monastic profession on January 6, 1946. She was in her 61st year of monastic profession. Sister Mary Charles (Molly) was born to Justin Hugh McGough and Ruth (Brownell) on April 18, 1925, in Cloquet. She received her high school education at Duluth Cathedral High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts from

The College of St. Scholastica, a Master in Education from the University of Minnesota, and a Master of Fine Arts from Notre Dame University.

Sister Mary Charles began her teaching career in 1949 as second grade teacher at St. Bridget's School, Minneapolis. The following year she taught art and religion at Stanbrook Hall, Duluth. She taught in the Elementary Education Program at The College of St. Scholastica (1951-1954) and then grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 at St. Anthony's School in Duluth (1954 to 1959). From 1959 to 1967 she headed the Art Department at The College of St. Scholastica. She was well known for beginning the summer "Barn Program" in 1968 when the carriage house on the McCabe property became an art studio. There she taught children various creative activities: writing, science, dance, song, musical instruments, and art.

Sister Mary Charles was gifted in many art mediums: woodcuts, wood carvings, ceramics, sculptures, and watercolors, to name a few. Sister was commissioned to do many creative or artistic projects for various organizations and for churches of many religious denominations.

Sister Mary Charles began studies in iconography in 1990. Her subsequent work with icons was commissioned by individuals and parishes nationwide.

Sister Mary Charles was a long-time member of Pax Christi, an international peace organization and was dedicated to the work of the Damiano Center, to CHUM, and to any other organization that cared for poor or marginalized people.

Sister Mary Charles was preceded in death by her father Justin McGough, her mother Ruth (Brownell), her beloved friend, Bishop Paul Anderson, and her apprentice, Gary Erickson. In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery she is survived by two brothers, John Hugh McGough and Charles Brownell McGough, and by one sister, Patricia Ruth O'Brien.

Welcoming the Other: 2007 Monastic Institute

By Sister Sarah Smedman

Welcoming the Other: A Path to Holiness and Peace—was the theme of the Monastic Institute at St. John's University, Collegeville, July 1-5, 2007. Six from St. Scholastica Monastery attended: Sister Michelle Dosch, Sister Agnes Fleck, Sister Sarah Ann O'Malley, Sister Sarah Smedman, Sister Mary Josephine Torborg, and Sister Maria Volk. Focused on non-Christian and Christian religions, particularly monasticism, this Institute was the outgrowth of a 1973 request from the Holy See that Benedictines take the lead in worldwide interreligious dialogue because "monasticism is the bridge between religions." The Institute's first day featured presentations by two Buddhist monks, Kusala Bhiksu from the International Buddhist Meditation Center in Los Angeles, and Vivian Gruenenfelder, a Senior Buddhist priest from Shasta Abbey (a monastery for both women and men), Mount Shasta, California. They spoke on the origins, four universal truths, and the practices of Buddhism, specifically about what it means to be an American Buddhist. The presence of Venerable Kusala and Reverend Vivian during the entire Institute allowed for a good deal of interaction with the participants.

On the second day, Dr. Ingrid Mattson, President of the Islamic Society of North America and Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of Islamic Chaplaincy at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, spoke concisely and cogently on Islamic theology, the role of the Qur'an in Muslim life, and what it means to be a Muslim and a Muslim woman in today's society, especially in the United States after 9-11-2001.

The third day was devoted to Christian monasticism. Sarah Schwartzberg, OSB, from Osage Monastery, Sand Springs, Oklahoma, rooted her remarks on "Hospitality in the Biblical Tradition" in the Genesis account of the visit of the three angels to Abraham and Sarah. Father Pierre-Francoise de Bethune, OSB, from the Monastere Saint Andre de Clerlande, Belgium, discussed the definitive role of hospitality in the Catholic monastic tradition.

For the most part, Institute participants followed the monastic horarium of St. John's Abbey with the monks. They did spend the first day at St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, celebrating the Eucharist, and picnicking with the Sisters, as well as attending Institute sessions. Some early mornings offered practice in Buddhist meditation. Evenings were highlighted by a chanting of the Qur'an by a Muslim high school student from Minneapolis and a Japanese Tea Ceremony performed by Fr. Pierre-Francois.

On the final day, invited guest, author Kathleen Norris, and participants shared reactions to the Institute and commented on interreligious movements in their home areas. Duluth Sisters detailed two notable works: membership on the CSS Interreligious Forum Advisory Board, which in the past year has sponsored lectures by noted authors Karen Armstrong and Jean Comaroff, a Muslim film series (each film followed by a facilitated discussion), and several on-going book/discussion groups—all free and open to the public; and leadership in CHUM (Churches United in Ministry) which advocates for and works with the poor and homeless. Both groups are cooperative efforts among Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

We six Sisters came away convinced that interreligious exchange is an important contemporary expression of the monastic charism of hospitality to be practiced not just by experts, but by all who are called to monastic life.



Sisters who attended the Monastic Institute (left to right): Sister Michelle Dosch, Sister Sarah O'Malley, Sister Agnes Fleck, Sister Mary Josephine Torborg, Sister Sarah Smedman

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