

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016



Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery



Office of Development, Duluth, MN

Dear Friends of the Monastery,

Our 2015-2016 Annual Report celebrates the many ways we live our monastic mission each day. God calls us to center our day in communal and personal prayer and on the meditative reading of scripture called *lectio divina*. As Benedictines, we follow the Rule of St. Benedict that prompts us to act as Christ in our relationships with one another and with the people we serve. We strive for a balance of prayer and work, *Ora et Labora*, combined with an appreciation for peaceful leisure. This dynamic balance defines our monastic lives.

Sister Lois Eckes stepped down in August 2015 after two terms of dedicated service to her Community, and I began a term of five years as Prioress. One of my first duties was the annual distribution of commissions, where each Sister receives her assignments for prayer and work for the next year. Collectively we pray for all the parishes in the Duluth Diocese, our sponsored institutions, our individual ministries, and the employees and volunteers with whom we work. This report highlights a few of the ways we live, pray, work, and celebrate together.

None of this would be possible without the support of our family and friends. You play a vital role in our ministries with your prayers, volunteer hours, and donations. In this past year 1,991 contributions to the Monastery and to the McCabe Renewal Center totaled \$229,158. There were 221 first-time donors, and volunteers contributed 2,200 hours of service. An additional \$300 was given through the Father John Whitney Evans Fund, which supports vocation efforts of the Diocese of Duluth, the local Knights of Columbus, and the Monastery.



Community Support	\$ 147,682
Retirement	\$ 10,823
Care of Infirm Sisters	\$ 16,399
McCabe Renewal Center	\$ 437
Benedictine Center of Spirituality	\$ 1,937
Vocations	\$ 233
Twinning Monasteries	\$ 44,175
Total	\$ 221,686

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.

Sister Beverly

Sister Beverly Raway
Prioress



Our Mission Statement

As Benedictine monastics,
the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery strive to live
a balanced life of prayer, work, study, and leisure.

Through our diverse ministries,
we are committed to helping create
a more just and compassionate world.

Each year we receive new commissions
and ask the Holy Spirit's guidance.



Commsioning Rite, August 2015

*"Every time you begin a good work, you must pray
to God most earnestly to bring it to perfection."*

The Rule of St. Benedict: Prologue

We celebrate the great feasts
of the Catholic Church.



Lighting the new fire at the Easter Vigil, March 2016

*"In religion a different year revolves within the natural one,
the seasons making a background for it."*

from In This House of Brede by Rumer Godden

The center of our life is
the Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist.



Praying the Liturgy of the Hours together, July 2015

"Seven times a day I have praised you."

The Rule of St. Benedict, Ch. 16: The Divine Office

We join in prayer and praise
with our college students.



Liturgical Dance at Advent Vespers, December 2015

"To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it."

— Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Each day we remember those
who have asked for our prayers.



Praying for the needs of our College alumni, April 2016

*"We lay our petitions before the Lord God of all things
with the utmost humility and sincere devotion."*

The Rule of St. Benedict, Ch. 20: Reverence in Prayer

We work at whatever needs doing,
to make something beautiful for Christ.



Working in the garden; cleaning the garage, July 2015

*"They are monastics in truth if they live by the work
of their hands, like our forebears and the Apostles."*

The Rule of St. Benedict, Ch. 48: Of the Daily Work

We work with students at
The College of St. Scholastica.



**Sister Victorine Sitter helps in a quiet, softly-lit testing room
for students whose health requires a calm environment.**

*"We believe that equity and inclusion are key ingredients to
academic excellence and the success of all our students."*

The College of St. Scholastica

We work for peace and justice for all.



Gathering rhubarb for the Rhubarb Festival, an annual fundraiser for CHUM ministries in Duluth, June 2015.

"Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, kindness, understanding, and peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God — the rest will be given."

— Mother Teresa of Calcutta

We guide people on their spiritual journeys.



Our Spiritual Direction team, October 2015.

"The place where God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

— Frederick Buechner

We treasure our friendship with the Sisters
of our Benedictine Twinning Communities
in Chile and Tanzania.



At Monasterio Santa Maria de Rautén, Chile, January 2016

*"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually
we are members one of another."*

Romans 12:5

We study our faith so we can open the
"ears of our heart" and follow God's will.



Blessing the Thomas Merton Room, December 2015

"On Sunday let all devote themselves to reading."

The Rule of St. Benedict, Ch. 48: Of the Daily Work

We spend time with friends in recreation.

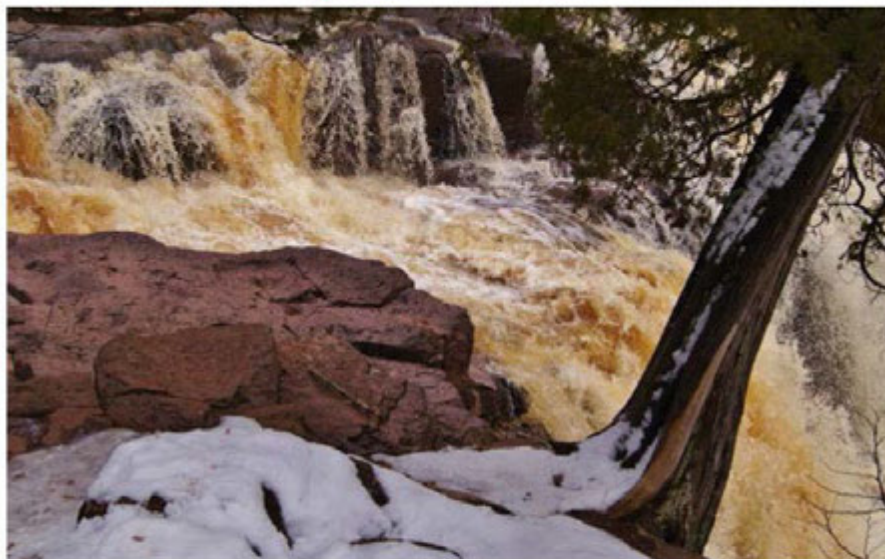


Sisters Antonia Mtega and Agnes Fleck on Mardi Gras, 2016

*"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other."*

– Mother Teresa of Calcutta

We rest our spirits with God's creation.



A walk at Gooseberry Falls, March 2016

*"The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. There is
a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail,
in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is ...
to discover God in all things."*

– Pope Francis in Laudato Si'

We respect and care for the earth.



Planting tomatoes, May 2016

"Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us."

— Pope Francis in Laudato Si'

We respect and love each other with the same love we give to God.



Sister Beverly Raway, our newly elected Prioress, accepts the obedience and blessing of outgoing Prioress, Sister Lois Eckes, August 2015

"The Prioress holds the place of Christ in the monastery, teaching by example all that is holy and good."

The Rule of St. Benedict, Ch. 2: Qualities of the Abbot

OUR 2016 JUBILARIANS

+Sister Jane Casey, 70 years Diamond Jubilarian, August 6, 2016



I was born August 6, 1926 in Duluth, Minnesota to James B. Casey and Mary Jane (Kelly) Casey, the oldest of three girls and two boys. I have many happy memories of growing up on the Boulevard (now Skyline Parkway) overlooking the bay. We spent many summer afternoons sitting on the rocks on the hill behind our home, watching the boats. A favorite family Sunday outing was standing on the pier watching ore boats pass under the Aerial Bridge.

I attended Sacred Heart Grade School. I loved the Sisters and from 7th grade wanted to be a Sister. I was blessed to live in a family where the Catholic faith was very important. My parents always blessed us with holy water before we left for school, rode our bikes, and at bedtime. I remember when we heard the news of Pearl Harbor we knelt down right then and prayed the Rosary.

When I was eight and my youngest sister was an infant, my mother was very sick. When I became a Sister, one of my teachers told me that the Sisters prayed that we little children would not lose our mother. I was very grateful to God that my mother recovered and in fact lived to 97 years.

I attended Cathedral High School. Up to 1942 the girls and boys were separate. In my junior year the Brothers moved out of town, the Sisters took over, and we became co-ed all in one building. My goal in high school was to prepare for the day when I could enter the convent. During high school my sister and I volunteered at St. James Orphanage, helping with the younger children. I was so happy being able to work with the Sisters. My high school years were during World War II so we rolled bandages and sold war stamps.

I graduated from high school in 1944 and that fall entered and became a Postulant on September 8. Although I knew the Sisters from school, living with them was a new experience. I had classes in religious life and college classes to prepare me to be an elementary school teacher.

I taught little children in the primary grades in schools in the Duluth Diocese and in Cincinnati, Chicago, and Minneapolis. They were happy and rewarding years. I especially liked teaching religion and reading. After 47 years of teaching I was blessed with a trip to Rome and Lourdes. I was assigned to be a companion to the Sister Sacristan at St. Ann's Senior Residence. I joined Sister Maria Volk in her ministry on Central Hillside, working out of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church. We visited the seniors and homebound in the high rises and homes in the area and brought Holy Communion. I also interacted with the residents at St. Ann's and helped with the chapel duties.

Now I am living at the Monastery where God has blessed me and I can still do a few little jobs and pray. I am so grateful for the gift of perseverance these 70 years. I can only say, "Thank you, thank you, dear Lord."

+ Sister Jane celebrated her Diamond Jubilee early, on her 90th birthday, only days before she died on July 28, 2016.

She had prepared this article weeks earlier for this publication.

Sister Danile Lynch, Golden Jubilarian, August 13, 2016



GOLDEN JUBILEE?! Where, oh where, did fifty years go? Life began for this blue-eyed, blond-haired, five-pound baby girl in Waukegan, Illinois (Jack Benny's home town!). I was the third of four children born to Daniel and Agnes (Godfrey) Lynch. My father was raised in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and my mother in Hibbing, Minnesota. Keeping with my heritage as a true Midwesterner, I grew up in Mundelein, Illinois, a small "village" of 3,100 people.

Named after Cardinal George Mundelein, my hometown housed the seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The magnificent seminary grounds were a playground for my childhood friend Mary and me. We spent our time playing in the woods of the campus. Sitting on a huge log that had fallen across the creek, we would dream about the future. Many of the seminarians would wave and greet us on their way to the baseball field in the late afternoon.

My first encounter with the Duluth Benedictines was at the age of seven when my family came to visit my great aunt, Agnes Godfrey, who was living at the McCabe Home for Seniors. "Mime," as she was affectionately known, would tell us stories about the "wonderful nuns" who cared for her.

I came to "the Villa" for college and met the "wonderful nuns" for myself. The Sisters were full of laughter and enjoyed the students who challenged them to ping-pong games which the students never won! In April of 1964, on a visit home from college, I told my mother I was thinking of entering the convent. I vividly recall her response: "You want to do WHAT! You want to go WHERE!" I knew I had better not tell her I had already been accepted to enter that September!

Most of my time in ministry has been in healthcare which began at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth where I filed medical records in the medical records department. From there I went to work in Chicago and then Phoenix. Following the completion of my master's degree, I moved to the small town of Red Bluff in northern California and worked for a hospital of the Sisters of Mercy, which provided healthcare to many migrant workers. I returned to Duluth in the 1990s to serve the Community as prioress. After six years in this position, I worked with a Catholic psychiatric facility in the Washington, D.C. area. I retired in 2011, and currently serve as the Community's treasurer.

All these years, moves, and ministries later, I still remember my first night in the convent. As Sister Cabrini, our postulant director, explained the night practices to us, I truly felt that I was home. I knew I was where I was meant to be. I have had the privilege of working all around our beautiful country and traveling to many places here and abroad, but I have always known that home is here at St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth!

To summarize my fifty years of monastic profession, I will use an expression one of my evening shift employees, Genevieve, used whenever she was asked how she was. "I'm blessed!" I have certainly been blessed!

Sister Josephine Krulc, Golden Jubilarian, August 13, 2016



*"I am but a pilgrim on earth
trying to act justly,
love tenderly, and
walk humbly
with my God."*

Refs: Psalm 119:19a; Micah 6:8b

St. Scholastica Monastery

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Mission

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

Architectural Service, Duluth/Regional
Benedictine Center of Spirituality,
Duluth, MN
Benedictine Health Center, Duluth, MN
Benedictine Health System, Duluth, MN
McCabe Renewal Center, Duluth, MN
Catholic Health-Care Facilities
Music Ministry, Local Churches, Duluth, MN
Damiano Center, Duluth, MN

Essentia Health System, Duluth, MN
Catholic Schools, Chicago, IL
St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN
CHUM (Churches United in Ministry),
Duluth, MN
Spiritual Direction, St. Scholastica Monastery,
Duluth, MN
College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN
Transcultural Nursing Society, Livonia, MI