

2013-2014



ANNUAL
REPORT



*Benedictine Sisters
St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN
Office of Development*

Dear Friends of the Monastery,

In 2014 the Monastery published the book *Saved by Beauty: Sister Mary Charles McGough, OSB*, and is currently participating in the Tweed Museum of Art's exhibit of her work that will run through September 21, 2014. This Annual Report continues our celebration of Sister Mary Charles's life and art with photos of many of her woodcuts and paintings of children. Indeed, several of her images were inspired by the summers she taught children in the "Barn Program" that ran from 1967 to 1983 at McCabe Renewal Center.



Sister Mary Charles believed in the quote from Dostoyevsky she so often recited, "The world will be saved by beauty." She also believed that children should be given the opportunity to discover in themselves the seeds of art, music, poetry, and a love of nature—thus her summers surrounded by children at the McCabe grounds and the Barn.

One of her deepest joys and sense of fulfillment came through helping people of all ages discover the creative spark within themselves, and in igniting a spirit of wonder at the beauty they were inspired to create. Learning to stand in awe before the beauty within and all around us was a hope that Sister Mary Charles nurtured in the hearts of all who were blessed by her life and work. It is a blessing that continues to grace our world.

In the same wonder-filled spirit of hope and joy, we thank you, our family and friends, who so faithfully sustain our monastic way of life by praying, volunteering, and donating generously to our ministries. This past year 1,496 contributions to the Monastery and to McCabe Renewal Center totaled \$823,710. There were 192 first-time donors. In addition, 64 volunteers contributed 2,726 hours of service. Contributions to the Father John Whitney Evans fund that supports vocation efforts of the Diocese of Duluth, the Knights of Columbus, and the Monastery totaled \$4,000.

Community Support	\$ 751,455	
Other	\$ 35,095	
Care of Infirm Sisters	\$ 16,067	
Retirement	\$ 10,678	
McCabe Renewal Center	\$ 7,765	Total \$823,710
Benedictine Center of Spirituality	\$ 1,050	
Vocations	\$ 925	
Twinning (Sister Monasteries)	\$ 675	

Our summer 2014 celebrations included the centennial celebration of the McCabe house on August 24, and six Sisters who marked Golden or Diamond Jubilee celebrations. There were three Golden Jubilarians (50 years) and three Diamond Jubilarians (one who celebrated 75 years and two who celebrated 60 years of Monastic Profession). These Sisters' profiles begin on page four.

We continue to be blessed with the new life that is unfolding in our Community. We have one Sister who will make First Monastic Profession in August and one who will make her Perpetual Monastic Profession in September. The fall *Pathways* will feature these ceremonies. Our Community is blessed with seven women in Initial Formation, for which we are deeply grateful. We thank you for your prayers and support for them and for all whom God is calling to our Community.

Within each of us God's creative love is at work, keeping alive the wonder of a child and the faith to know that we too are saving the world by the beauty we create. Thank you for being 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 19, 2014

Sister Barbara Ann Vierzba

I was born in Brainerd in 1943. I have two older brothers, two younger brothers, and a sister. During childhood I enjoyed playing games with the neighborhood children. I went to the public school for kindergarten and 1st grade. My older brothers were at St. Francis. I remember going with Mom to pick them up as we lived over two miles from the school. I saw Sister Marianne St. Marie, my brother's 1st grade teacher, and knew that I wanted to be a Sister. I had to wait until 2nd grade before I could go to the Catholic School as money was tight for my family. All of us children had paper routes to earn a little money for ourselves. I delivered to part of my oldest brother's route getting a penny a paper. Our first purchases were bicycles so we wouldn't have to walk to school. I went over to school on Saturdays to help the Sisters in their classrooms. My brothers could never understand why I would do that. I really wanted to come to Duluth after the 8th grade as an Aspirant but my youngest brother was just a year old and Mom wanted me home to help care for him. She said that if I still wanted to be a Sister when I was a junior in high school, I could come—and so I did. I made the vocation retreats in the summer of my high school years and met some of the girls who would enter with me.

I entered the Community on September 8, 1962. There were 26 of us and another six entered in December. We were one of the groups that received a college education before going out teaching. I also earned my Masters in Education. My ministry in the elementary schools took me to Cloquet, Chicago, Phoenix, West Duluth, and Brainerd. In West Duluth and Brainerd I was both teacher and the principal.

Other ministries included working in the Business Office in Accounts Receivable and cleaning houses for the elderly in the Sisters' Care program in St. Paul. My goal was to take CPE at St. Mary's in Duluth and become a chaplain. After completing that program, I got a job at St. Gabriel's and St. Otto's in Little Falls. With another chaplain my whole life was work as we were on call every other night and every other weekend. I loved my work at St. Otto's, an extended care facility.

In 1999 I was asked to be the Subprioress and was very willing to serve the Community in this position. I found that my training in CPE was very helpful in my new responsibilities. I did love the variety in that ministry, serving for 12 years. I count that among the many blessings of my 50 years as a Benedictine Sister.



Sister Lois Ann Glauzel



I was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 7, 1944, to Roland and Lois Glauzel. At that time my father was an inspector in the Signal Corps, which necessitated moving from place to place until 1946. My parents settled in Minneapolis just in time to welcome Catherine in 1946, and Mary in 1947.

Growing up in North Minneapolis, I attended and graduated from Our Lady of Victory (OLV) School, where I was taught by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery. My class at OLV was the first class of students who went through all eight grades there. I then attended Stanbrook Hall High School in Duluth, which was where my thoughts began to center around entering the convent. Sister Prudentia was in charge of vocations at this time, and anyone who knew her knows how persistent she was at pursuing candidates for the religious life.

On September 8, 1962, I entered the Community as a postulant and then became a novice in 1963, when I was given the name Sister Lois Ann in honor of my mother. The novitiate focuses on religious studies, and after receiving the black veil I continued my college education, studied, and graduated with a major in elementary education. Life as a full-fledged teacher began at St. Leo's in Hibbing, Minnesota. Second grade was the perfect grade to start with a perfect

principal, Sister Mary Henry Landsteiner. She was a great mentor and friend. Thanks Sister. Also, what a joy to prepare young children to receive their first Reconciliation and first Holy Communion. The priests were so kind and helpful in support of the preparation. Little ones also make you laugh during the day. The first day of changing from habit to lay clothes, one of the students said, with a shocked expression, “You’ve got legs!” That makes you wonder if they thought we walked on water.

Moving on to Brainerd, and St. Francis School, I learned to play guitar and began playing and singing for children’s liturgies. It was there that I met my life-long friend, Sister Devota LaVoie. Sister taught me to drive and to laugh my troubles away—whatever they may be—Thank you Sister Devota.

After my years in Brainerd I taught in Pine City, Minnesota, until 1982, and then it was off to the windy city of Chicago to teach at St. Timothy, St. Hilary, St. Matthias, Pope John the XXIII, and most recently at St. Mary of the Lake. It seems like retirement should be next!

Community, family, friends, and former students have always been important to me. God has blessed me in so many ways. The love and support that have been shared with me have filled these past 50 years with many Golden moments.

Sister Mary Susan DeWitt



I grew up in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, as Betty Ellen, fourth from the top of twelve siblings, with a long-suffering mother and father (both devout Catholics) and one lone bathroom. In her later years mother would say, “I wouldn’t take a million dollars for any of my children—and I wouldn’t give a nickel for another one!” Dad was a cheerful, caring person who would sometimes pick mother up and dance her around the kitchen! Growing up, I was aware of feeling a sense of drifting in life and another feeling of searching, always searching for what? Who? I didn’t know. On long, solitary walks in our quiet little town at night I would sing as I walked, and one song stuck in my heart: “There’s a somebody I’m longing to see . . .” At the time I suspected the “somebody” was a marriage partner since religious life never appealed to me (TOO TAME).

In 1961, fresh out of high school, I set out for college in Duluth, Minnesota, eager for new horizons. There I met the warm, lively Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica. In the sophomore year of my nursing program I finally accepted the call of God, entering the convent at the “Villa.” Six years later, wonder of wonders, another call! Diploma in hand, I was bound for Antofagasta, Chile, to operate a clinic for the poor at our Benedictine mission there (TOO TAME?!)

I had been drawn to Chile by the idea of becoming a “healing force for God” among the Chileans, but gradually, ironically, over the first three years I came to realize: my God was not strong enough to hold me steady in the struggles and demands of missionary life. I came to realize I really didn’t know God—a painful realization for a Benedictine. The stripping process of the first years went on and finally the ground was ready.

There was a charismatic retreat. I went. And the ground within me shifted. The Holy Spirit swept through and God became alive and powerful. Prayer was different. Life was different. I was different. No more drifting and empty searching. The anchor of my life had found its harbor—not that struggles were over! But I finally knew the “Somebody” had called my name, was walking with me and holding me through it all.

The next nine years were a process of growth in knowing 1) the ways of this amazing, healing God who continued to call my name, 2) the goodness, beauty, and simplicity of the Chilean people, and 3) the seven wonderful Benedictine women in Chile with me.

The years flew by and in 1979 I returned to Duluth to minister in a new but just as beloved ministry—as a chaplain at the Benedictine Health Center where I still am astounded by the goodness and beauty of God’s people. I celebrate 50 years of walking (also much stumbling, falling down, getting up) with the Lord and the incredible women of the Community to which He called me. (And I even have my very own bathroom—amazing!)

Diamond Jubilarians celebrated August 16, 2014

Sister Petra Lenta 75 years



Sister Petra Lenta was born in Duluth, Minnesota, and attended Sacred Heart elementary and Girls' Cathedral high schools. Her parents were Italian immigrants and devout Catholics. Sister Petra has talked about the Italian-American activities that were a part of the "Little Italy" group that provided activities for Italian immigrants in the area. Some of the simple joys Sister talked about were the picnics with a trip up the St. Louis River and the Christmas-time rivalry over which woman made the best fruit cake.

Sister Petra's father, Louis, was a stonemason who helped to construct St. Peter's Church. Sister Petra was five years old when the church was completed, and she and her family attended the first service. "My father had the honor of being first to ring the church bells summoning people to worship," she says. Sister Petra's father also built the Monastery's Sacred Heart shrine, the pillars at the entrance to the Monastery cemetery, the bridge over Chester Creek, and helped in the construction of Tower Hall. Sister Petra says, "He had a great love for our Sisters."

After graduation from high school, Sister Petra attended The College of St. Scholastica and entered the Monastery following her freshman year. After graduation from the College in 1942, she entered a three-year program of the Institutum Divi Thomae in Cincinnati that specialized in cancer research. Upon

her return to Duluth in 1945, she and Sister Agatha Riehl established the Cancer Research Unit at CSS. Sister Petra also taught in the biology and chemistry departments at the College. The Cancer Research Unit was active for over thirty years, after which time Sister Petra taught science to students of Assumption School in Hibbing, Minnesota.

Returning to Duluth, she did catechetical teaching in Superior, worked at the Monastery information center, and cared for her aged parents. Sister Petra's 75 years of religious life have certainly been a blessing to the Community.

Sister Theresa Jodocy 60 years

Mary Theresa Jodocy, one of ten children, was born in Escanaba, Michigan, to Peter and Clemence Nizette Jodocy. Her three-month-old twin brother Norbert was one of three siblings who died in infancy. Because her parents were from the French section of Belgium, the language spoken in the home was French. Consequently, the Jodocy children began school speaking only French.

Family prayer was central to the Jodocy home. Although Mary Theresa had never met a missionary Sister, she prayed daily to her patron to become one. However, one Sunday her pastor preached on the twins, Sts. Benedict and Scholastica. From then on Mary Theresa read everything she could about the twin saints. During her college years at Marquette, Michigan, a student from The College of St. Scholastica suggested that Mary Theresa attend a summer session at CSS. There she met Sister Ann Edward Scanlon, who immediately became a soul mate. She arranged for Mary Theresa to transfer to CSS as a senior the following fall. In January 1953 Mary Theresa became a postulant at St. Scholastica Monastery; in June she graduated from CSS; in July she entered the novitiate and became Sister Matthias, named after her priest brother.

In 1954 Sister Matthias began a 13-year teaching career in the Duluth Diocese parochial schools. Having received an M.E. degree in Administration from UMD, she was then assigned to St. Thomas the Apostle School in Phoenix, spending summers studying for her master's degree in Theology at the University of San Francisco. After ten years as principal and subsequently four years as Dean at Xavier College Prep school for girls in Phoenix, and with her Master in Theology in hand, Sister Matthias accepted a teaching position at Notre Dame High School for boys in Chicago.



R DIAMOND JUBILARIANS!

In the fall of 1988 Sister Matthias's dream of teaching theology to adults became a reality when St. Andrew the Apostle parish in Chandler, Arizona, hired her as a Pastoral Associate. There she spent five years, returned to her baptismal name, and moved on to other local parishes. During a sabbatical in 1993-94 she enriched her study of theology at Notre Dame University, and continued during subsequent summers at Chicago Theological Union, Gonzaga University, Loyola Marymount, and Avila College. During these years Sister Theresa thrived in her work as adult educator: teaching Scripture, directing RCIA, working with returning Catholics, preparing catechists for certification, and processing marriage annulments. At various times and in other parishes, her work included setting up three parish spirituality centers/libraries and directing a ministry of care program that prepared members to bring Eucharist to the homebound. In each parish Sister Theresa prepared Eucharistic ministers and lectors, assisted families in preparing funerals, and conducted grief support sessions.

During Sister Theresa's term at Holy Spirit she organized and directed three tours abroad: one to the Holy Land, one to France and Italy, and one to Spain and Portugal, each enrolled to capacity. Grateful for the opportunities provided her by St. Scholastica Monastery, Sister Theresa also traveled to Europe and South America to visit her parents' families.

Now retired after 45 years of mission work, Sister Theresa volunteers at the Marriage Tribunal of the Duluth Diocese and works at the Monastery. She enjoys reading and playing games, especially Scrabble. "God," she says, "has blessed me with good health and wonderful opportunities to serve others striving to follow in Christ's footsteps."

Sister Kathleen Hofer 60 years



Sister Kathleen Hofer was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and grew up in the small town of Michigan City, North Dakota, where her father was a banker. She was active in all school activities, including drama, chorus, band, was editor of the high school newspaper, and was a lover of sports. She entered St. Scholastica Monastery in January 1953 while a sophomore in college, and made first vows in July 1954. As was common for newly professed Sisters at that time, she began teaching in elementary schools in the Diocese of Duluth. For the next seven years she taught various grades in Duluth, Brainerd, and Aitkin, Minnesota.

Sister Kathleen received her bachelor's degree from The College of St. Scholastica with majors in medical record administration and psychology. After completing an MBA with a major in health-care administration from George Washington University, she began her extensive and successful career in health care.

As an assistant and associate professor at The College of St. Scholastica, Sister Kathleen served as chair of the Medical Record Administration Department and subsequently as the first chair of the Division of Health Sciences. She was also active professionally in the Minnesota and American Medical Record Associations, serving as President of each. She was active in the International Congress on

Medical Records and participated in international meetings around the world.

Sister Kathleen has been a leader in health care in Duluth since the early 1980's, serving at various times as the CEO of the Benedictine Health System and, for 15 years, as CEO of St. Mary's Medical Center. She served as Board Chair of the Benedictine Health System, St. Mary's Medical Center/St. Mary's Hospital of Superior, the SMDC Health System (of which she was a major founder) and the Essentia Health East Region. In Minnesota she served on the boards of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and the Minnesota Hospital Association. She also was an active member of many other civic and health-care organizations at the local and state levels. Sister Kathleen's leadership in health care during years of phenomenal change and challenges has earned her broad recognition.

Active as a Benedictine Sister of St. Scholastica Monastery, Sister Kathleen served as Prioress, Treasurer, and as a member of the Council and the BSBA Board. Sister Kathleen also served for more than 25 years on the Board of Trustees of The College of St. Scholastica, having chaired that Board for four years.

During her "spare time," Sister Kathleen loves to travel and see new things, and still pursues her love of sports, watching many teams during the course of their seasons. She is a news buff, following the news with intense interest and generally reading more than one newspaper each day. This and her active life are signs of her deep interest in and genuine commitment to God's world and all its people. Her love of travel carries this interest further, and she feels greatly blessed to have visited many countries and other continents during her life.

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, Plymouth, MN
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
Spiritual Direction Training/Formation
St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN
Transcultural Nursing Society, Livonia, MI