

PATHWAYS



NEWSLETTER OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

DULUTH MINNESOTA

Fall, 2005

Vol 17, No. 1

A Letter From the Prioress

Dear Friends,

The experience of being called forth by the Holy Spirit through my monastic community to become the 13th prioress of St. Scholastica Monastery has felt like an annunciation to me, with both the Angel Gabriel and Mary of Nazareth filling my awe-struck soul with their tender yet strong presence. The outpouring of love, warm blessings, and heartfelt support that I have received moves me deeply and fills my heart with overflowing gratitude. Day by day I am experiencing what a grace-filled privilege it is to be the spiritual leader of such a beautiful monastic community of women—women of deep faith and undaunted courage, women generous and wise, whose love, out-poured in prayer and service, continues to bring hope and healing to our broken world.

In this, my first letter to you, I would like to share some adaptations of a dream that I have already shared with my Community. I hope it will find an echo in your heart.

I have a dream that we will live each moment of our lives grounded in our Sacred Center who is God and that we will know in our deepest soul how boundlessly and unconditionally we are loved by the One in whom we all are one. I have a dream that we will choose to show up to life with the gift that we are and give that gift with a soulfulness that pays attention to what has heart and meaning, that tells the truth without blame or judgment, and that is open and not attached to outcome. I have a dream that we will be women and men of vision who imagine and embrace a new world view that fosters the full personhood of every human being and right relationships with all of God's beloved creation.

I have a dream that as our hearts are moved with compassion for all who suffer the indescribable destruction of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and reach out to help in whatever way we can, we will also remember all who suffer from violence, poverty, and homelessness on a daily basis. I have a dream that we will know the transforming power of mutual respect, attentive listening, the exercise of life-giving authority, the practice of inclusion, solidarity in community, and justice as the way to peace.

I have a dream that we will be filled with the passionate, infinite love of the Spirit that grows like a seed within us, that flowers in holy wisdom, guiding our every step. I have a dream that the vision that inspired and empowered St. Benedict and St. Scholastica to seek God and God's Reign in their lives will continue to inspire and empower us, as it has inspired countless others for over 1,500 years. Finally, I have a dream that we will listen daily with the ear of our heart to the heartbeat of all creation and know that it is the heartbeat of God!

To all of you who have been personally affected by the devastation of hurricanes and other personal and/or global tragedies, please know that we hold you in our hearts and prayers and support you in any way we can. May God, the Maker of dreams, who dwells within us and among us fill your hearts with wonder and abiding peace.

Sister Lois Eckes

Sister Lois Eckes
Prioress



Installation of Sister Lois Eckes

By Sister Armella Oblak

Photos by Sister Joyce Fournier and Gary Erickson

On Sunday, August 7, 2005, Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel was filled with an air of expectation as Sisters, family, and friends gathered for the Rite of Installation of Sister Lois Eckes as the thirteenth prioress of St. Scholastica Monastery. Guests were seated in the chapel as the Sisters assembled in the gathering space for *statio* and the solemn procession into the chapel.

After the psalms of Vespers were sung, the Installation Ritual began with Sister Kathleen Hofer reporting to Sister Michaela Hedican, president of our Federation, that she had completed her term of office and that on June 12, 2005, the Community had elected Sister Lois Eckes as the 13th prioress. Sister Michaela thanked Sister Kathleen for her faithful service during the last six years. Sister Michaela then called Sister Lois to come forth and questioned her regarding her willingness to lead the Community according to the *Rule of St. Benedict*. Sister Lois responded "yes" to each of the questions, and Sister Michaela then transferred authority to her. Sister Lois said, "Sisters, I accept your invitation to journey with you as prioress." Sister Lois enthroned the Word of God that Sister Michaela presented to her. Sister Michaela then presented Sister Lois with the *Rule of St. Benedict* with the reminder that she let the *Rule* be her guide as she listens to the Spirit within her and in the monastic community, the Church, and the world.

Sister Lois then called forth the Sisters who would assist her in her leadership role. The leadership staff pledged their support, and then the Sisters of the Community came forward to place their folded hands in the hands of the prioress.

Vespers continued with prayer, Sister Barbara Higgins' joyful dance, and songs. The celebration then moved by way of the reception line to Rockhurst Dining Room and continued with dinner.



Sister Lois accepts the call to become prioress.



Sister Michaela extends a blessing to Sister Lois.



Sister Lois receives the blessing of the community.





Sister Mary Charles McGough proclaims the Word of God.



Sister Almira Randall offers Sister Lois her love and support.



Sister Lois inviting everyone to sing at the reception following the Rite of Installation



Sister Barbara Higgins blessing the assembly with incense



Sister Lois with some of her family members



Sister Lois' father, Fidelis, and his wife Myrtle.



Tanzanian Trip

By Sister Beverly Raway

As we slip the photos into an album and view those e-mailed by members of our group, memories of our summer experiences in Tanzania flood back to mind. There are snapshots of orphan children with shining eyes, the rising glass-clear waters of the reservoir at the newly constructed dam at Chipole, and the students proudly carrying supplies to the dispensary and planting a tree to commemorate our visit. We review photos of celebrations and safari—our favorites: a lion lying in the shade of our Land Rover and a baby elephant being nursed by its mother under a massive baobab tree.

Fifteen College of St. Scholastica students and their three leaders—Mary Tanner, Jennifer Deming, and I—enjoyed five weeks in Tanzania, learning about the culture and helping the Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes—one of St. Scholastica Monastery's twin communities. This service-learning project, sponsored by the College and supported by the donations of many generous individuals and corporations, was a life-changing experience, especially for those for whom this was a first-time trip to a developing nation. There were 13 nursing majors, two biology pre-med majors, and one social work major in the group. The Monastery's recent Benedictine Associate and College graduate, Maurita McKay, was among these students. We carried over half a ton of supplies in 22 duffel bags. Donated supplies included bandages, syringes, medications, burn and dental supplies, teaching supplies, children's clothing, and playground equipment.

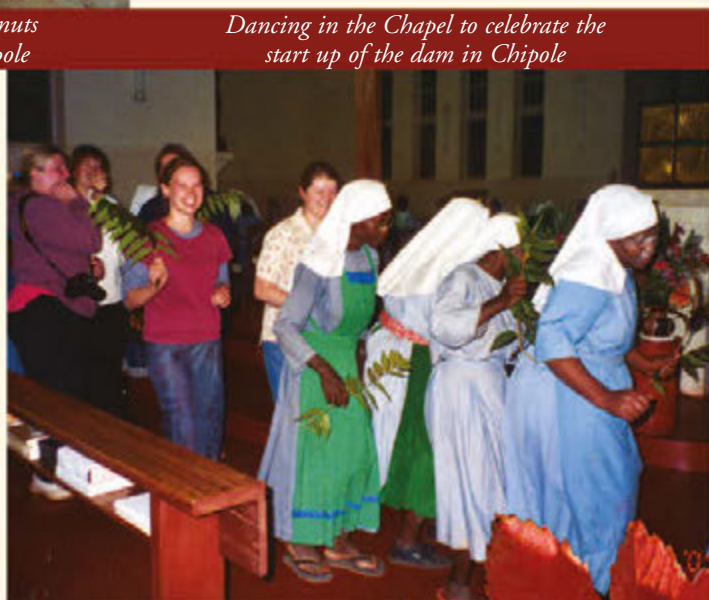
We split into two groups, and each group engaged in a variety of service projects, assisting as fully as possible in the work of the Tanzanian Sisters. Projects included caring for the orphans; assessing and treating patients at the dispensary and health care center; visiting the sick in the villages; participating in prenatal checkups; weighing infants and children; working in the kitchens, gardens, and tree nursery; clearing brush at the dam; and harvesting and sorting corn.

A highlight for Jennifer Deming and the group at Chipole was their visit to five villages located around the Monastery. Jennifer, who is a nurse practitioner, assessed patient needs and helped in prescribing appropriate treatment while students assisted. The Sisters have formed the Chipole Development Project, which they hope will attract funds to continue their work of assessing the level of HIV/AIDS in the area and the number of orphans and elderly in need of care.

I recall especially the experience of being present for the historic moment when the word was given that electricity was being generated for the first time at the dam on the Ruvuma River. The dancing and singing which began at the dam site continued long into the night at the Monastery as every bell in the house was set to ringing. Lights were left on for the next 24 hours in lavish luxury.



Sister Beverly shelling peanuts at the orphanage in Chipole



Dancing in the Chapel to celebrate the start up of the dam in Chipole





At Imiliwaha dramatic construction projects were under way including the addition of a second building for the orphanage, where it is anticipated there will be 50 orphans by next year. The secondary school is also growing and now has an enrollment of 380 students. The

traveling) and learned to rely on their own creativity to solve problems and work through communication barriers. Students, initially overwhelmed by the poverty and pollution they witnessed, were able to reflect on the impact those scenes had for them, the contributions they were able to make, and their gratefulness for what they had in the United States. They were also able to identify the tremendous contributions being made by the Benedictines in Tanzania to the education and health care of the people and to the changing image of the status of women in this developing country. As Mary Tanner noted, "The Benedictine values of hospitality and community were evident throughout our entire experience. Whether in the garden, the kitchen, dispensary, or elsewhere, these hard-working Sisters shared their love of life with us."



Dancing to greet Sister Kathleen Hofer on her arrival in Imiliwaha

Tanzanian Sisters enjoyed our students' attempts to communicate in Swahili. The students taught the Sisters how to make American pizza and stir-fry and American cakes and frosting, which they prepared without benefit of recipes.

There were joyous welcome celebrations when Sister Kathleen Hofer and Bishop Castor arrived at Imiliwaha. Bishop Castor, who had served the Sisters as chaplain for seven years, dedicated the dining/assembly hall in a ribbon-cutting ceremony following a special eucharistic celebration.

Sister Kathleen said of her visit to the Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes, "I saw the unbelievable results of their dedication, commitment, and perseverance—a recently constructed dam to feed a new generator which provides power for the entire large complex at Chipole and construction in progress for numerous new buildings at Imiliwaha—all necessary to carry out the many works of the Sisters in serving the people of Tanzania."

Students were well received by the Sisters, and the students, in turn, fell in love with them. The students adapted cheerfully to hardships (cold showers and hand washing of clothes, lack of flush toilets in many locations while



"Cabbage patch" people in the garden at Imiliwaha



Sponsorship

By Sister Kathleen Hofer

For over 100 years the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery have had a significant presence in Duluth—through the Monastery itself and through its educational and health-care works. Starting with only a small number of Sisters in the late 1800s, over the years the Duluth Benedictines established or assumed sponsorship of more than fifty institutions. This was done with great vision, and, especially in the earlier years, great courage to overcome major obstacles and assume considerable risk. It was always accomplished through hard work and a strong commitment to mission. In recent years this work and commitment to mission has been greatly enhanced by the lay people working with us. Together we carry forward the ministries begun by others; as good stewards we remain true to and nurture the work of our founders.

The term we use most often today in describing our relationship with our college and our health care institutions—social institutions that serve the public good—is *sponsorship*. The Latin root of the word *sponsor* means “to pledge oneself solemnly.” In this context, *sponsorship* is used to express the deep sense of responsibility as well as the bond that unites an institution with an official entity in the Church. A formal definition of Catholic sponsorship describes it as a relationship between an authorized Catholic organization (the Monastery) and a legally formed institution (hospital or college) entered into for the sake of promoting and sustaining Christ’s mission in the world today.



BENEDICTINE
Health System

Core Values

- Hospitality
- Stewardship
- Respect
- Justice

Sponsorship is a ministry that sustains, promotes, and symbolizes the relationship between the social institution and the Church. It is an ongoing permanent relationship of the religious group (which founded or has accepted the responsibility for sustaining a corporate work) with that corporate work. It is essential that sponsorship be dynamic, particularly in complex institutional ministries, in order to remain relevant in today’s ever-evolving society and in a Church whose teachings are at times redefined. The sponsor carries responsibility for the stewardship of the specific ministry and its long-term stability and identity.

The sponsor carries out its responsibility through reserved powers by which it oversees the institution and its fidelity to mission. Typical reserved powers include the right of the sponsor to establish the philosophy/mission by which the corporation operates, amend the corporate charter and bylaws, appoint or approve the board of trustees, lease/sell or encumber real estate in excess of a specified sum, and merge or dissolve the corporation.

The sponsor provides a second set of eyes that bring different perspectives in overseeing the mission of an institution. This helps ensure the preservation of the heritage, the charism and the foundational values that emanate from the sponsor. The sponsor is deeply committed to the sponsored entity and its work, marked by a spirit of collaboration and trust. There is a joint awareness that the sponsor and the sponsored work need each other.



as Ministry



Catholic institutions have specific core values that underpin their work. It is important for each sponsor and institution to determine core values that are unique to their identity and charism. The core values of the Benedictine Health System, initially developed by the Benedictine Sisters, are hospitality, respect, stewardship and justice. The St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System specifies core values of respect, innovation and excellence, teamwork, and stewardship. The core values of The College of St. Scholastica are community, hospitality, respect, stewardship, and love of learning. These core values are woven into various activities and communications in the institutions throughout the year and are exemplified by those who staff the institutions. All of the above emanate from and reflect the core values of the sponsor, the Benedictine Sisters.

Writings on the theological perspective of sponsorship reflect on communion, which is a central unifying theme within the Church. Communion stresses the interconnectedness that lies at the heart of the Church, which is established through baptism. Through baptism we become Christians. All baptized individuals are called to carry out Christ's mission and ministry. These individuals act not only as baptized Christians, but, if involved in a corporate work, have a connection to the universal Church through a sponsoring body. The sponsor is the structural link in the hierarchical communion of the universal Church, the key connection that gives a ministry its visible, official Catholic

identity and contributes to its continuity and longevity. Sponsorship preserves, promotes, and symbolizes communion; it exists not for itself but for the sake of the people being served. Sponsors act on behalf of the faith community, the communion of the baptized engaged in continuing the mission and ministry of Jesus.

St. Benedict frequently makes reference to good works in his *Holy Rule*, particularly in the Prologue. These good works are to be permeated by values emanating from the Gospels and unique to our Benedictine charism:

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

"Clothed with faith and the performance of good works, let us set out on this way, with the Gospel for our guide...."

"If we wish to dwell in the tent of God's kingdom, we will never arrive unless we run there by doing good deeds."

Our ministry of sponsorship is to encourage and oversee these good works so they remain true to our values and mission.

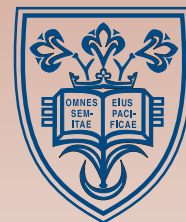
Ministering to God's people through sponsored institutions continues to require courage, fidelity, and keeping the vision of Christ's mission before us. May this be preserved and be as evident today as it has been with our forerunners over the past 100 years.



St. Mary's
MEDICAL CENTER

Core Values

- Respect
- Innovation and Excellence
- Teamwork
- Stewardship



The College of St. Scholastica

Core Values

- Community
- Hospitality
- Respect
- Stewardship
- Love of Learning



Highlights

On Being Pilgrim: Sisters Maria Volk's and Pauline Micke's Rome Renewal Experience

By Sister Pauline Micke

The question asked of us early in our renewal was, "Are you pilgrim or tourist?" To be tourist means to see through the lens of a camera. To be pilgrim means to see with the eyes of faith (the heart).

St. Peter's Basilica was our first stop on the journey. There is no way to describe this place unless you've been there. Two highlights were seeing the incorrupt body of Pope John XXIII and the tomb of John Paul II. Of special meaning to us were the places where Benedict and Scholastica were born—Norcia—and where they lived—Subiaco, Monte Cassino, and the caves at Vicavaro. We saw in Rome the Church of St. Crisogono where Benedict most likely worshipped and the cell where he lived at San Benedetto in Piscinula when he was a student in Rome. We saw also where Scholastica used the family's summer home to gather a group of women around her. Here all 29 of us stood in a circle and renewed our vows. It was very moving to realize that women have been doing this—dedicating their lives to the Benedictine way of life—for some 1,550 years.

In addition, the Forum, Colosseum, and the catacombs all spoke to us of our Christian roots. One cannot make this journey as pilgrim and not walk and see and hear in a different way. Our hearts are full of gratitude for this opportunity.



The Church of St. Gregory the Great: Sister Pauline sitting in Gregory the Great's chair.

African Sisters Visit St. Scholastica

By Sister Armella Oblak



Sister Petronilla Ulta Mwinuka (left) and Sister M. Edisa Komba

The African Sisters living at the Monastery while attending CSS were happy to have Sisters M. Edisa Komba and Petronilla Ulta Mwinuka (from the Tanzanian communities in Chipole and Imiliwaha respectively) visit them at our Monastery. Their joy, laughter, and songs made all of our hearts rejoice along with them. Sister Edisa has been working in pastoral ministry in Florida for nearly two years, and we enjoyed hearing about her experiences and about her family in Tanzania. Sister Petronilla has been studying philosophy and theology in Rome to obtain a master's degree. She was able to visit St. Scholastica Monastery while on a break from her studies and will finish her degree in Rome before returning to teach in Imiliwaha.

Both of these Sisters felt right at home from the moment they arrived. Sister Edisa said, "It is amazing how our communities found each other and became twinning communities. We are very comfortable praying, eating and visiting with each other—our 'plates are very full.'" She spoke of hospitality and mission and how good it was to experience our monastic life—busy but prayerful, full of love and sharing.

Prayer in Bloom

By Sister Linda Wiggins

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Sister Linda Wiggins (center) working in the garden with Sister Petronilla (left) and Sister Edissa.

Historically, monastery gardens were created for a number of purposes such as providing herbs and vegetables for the kitchen, supplying cut flowers for the sacristan, honoring the deceased monks; creating beautiful places to enhance prayer. Today, our garden court does function as a small cutting garden and as a wonderful area to visit during the busy day for prayer and meditation and to regenerate one's energy.

Thus we were delighted to have some much-needed renovations completed this summer. New cement brick borders were added to flower beds, and new sod was laid to enrich the green space. The borders emphasize the soft curved shape of the various flower beds—a lovely sense of God's infinity within this small space. Perennial flowers are in bloom from late spring until frost—tulips, peonies, lilies, asters, mums, and deep red sedum provide a variety of color and texture to please our senses and soothe our souls. Hostas provide wonderful shade sanctuaries. Lovely bedding plants adorn one circular raised bed, while hummingbirds flit happily around the red monarda in another.

Sisters can enjoy this drama from various benches strategically placed around the courtyard. A weathered wooden swing awaits a Sister who wishes to enjoy the wonderful scent of roses and flowering shrubs. White dahlias and pink shrub roses surround a statue of Mary.

Walkways allow those in wheelchairs access to the Garden Court, and one door is handicapped-accessible with an electric eye. Sisters on Benet Hall can view the garden from their rooms or from the sunroom, and many look forward to this view each summer. This little oasis of beauty becomes quite central to the lives of many Sisters. Now the beautiful green grass almost glows in the sunlight, a wonderful metaphor for the generative spirit of the monastic life.

Sister Ethel Radtke Honored in Squaw Lake

By Sister Margaret James Laughlin

Parishioners of Squaw Lake's St. Catherine's Church and friends of Sister Ethel Radtke were invited by Father Steven Daigle, pastor, to celebrate her thirty-five years of ministry at St. Catherine's on Sunday, August 21. The day began with Holy Mass at 11:00, followed by potluck brunch at the church. The afternoon reception was held at the Squaw Lake Community Center. Sisters Agatha Riehl, Clare Marie Trettel, Margaret James Laughlin, and Ramona Ewen of St. Scholastica Monastery (to which Sister Ethel returned at the end of September) participated in the celebration.



Photo by Louise H. McGregor, Western Lasca Review

Left to right: Sister Ethel Radtke with Jerry and Betsy Miller and four Sisters from St. Scholastica Monastery: Sister Clare Marie Trettel, Sister Margaret James Laughlin, Sister Ramona Ewen, and Sister Agatha Riehl



More Highlights



Stanbrook Hall Reunion 2005

By Sister Margaret James Laughlin

Again this year the special anniversary classes (1945, 1955, 1965) held group celebrations. Individuals from other years also attended. In addition to the class of 1945, the decade of the 1940s was represented by alumnae of 1941, 1942, 1944, 1947, and 1949; the decade of the 1950s was represented by women from the class of 1955 and also from the classes of 1950, 1953, 1957, and 1958; and the decade of the 1960s was represented by alumnae from the class of 1965 and also the classes of 1960, 1961, and 1964.

Added to the program this year was a PowerPoint presentation of archival materials including Stanbrook people, events, and places. Next year's reunion is scheduled for July 23, 2006. All Stanbrook alumnae are welcome to participate.



Photo by Rita Rosenberger

Alumnae from the Stanbrook Hall Class of 1955

Rhubarb Festival *By Sister Armella Oblak*



Photo by Rita Rosenberger

Sister Mary Felten, Sister Mary Paul Ludwig, and Sister Sharon O'Neill display some of the items donated for the rhubarb festival.

On June 25, 2005 a Rhubarb Festival to benefit CHUM (Churches United in Ministry) was held at First Lutheran Church in Duluth. Eleven churches and organizations worked to produce pies, jellies, jams, breads, sauces, and specialty items for diabetics. Sister Mary Paul Ludwig said that over 155 pies sold in the first 25 minutes as did the strawberry/rhubarb jam and breads donated by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery. Contests were held for the best original recipe, the largest rhubarb leaf, and the longest rhubarb stalk. In addition to being a successful fundraiser for CHUM, the event was a great community builder with people of all faiths working side by side.

Covenant People

Covenant people are those friends and families who have included St. Scholastica Monastery in their wills or made other estate provisions. Please feel free to contact Vicky Siders in the Development Office (218-723-6540) with questions about any of the following.

- Bequests
- Gift Annuities
- Trusts
- Gifts of Insurance Policies

Some of these ways of contributing may have tax benefits for you. Your thoughtful long-range planning will help the Sisters continue their many ministries.



In Loving Memory

Sister Andrine (Rose) Kvaternik, OSB, 93, St. Scholastica Monastery, died at the Monastery on Friday, September 9, 2005. She entered the Duluth Benedictine community in 1931. Sister Andrine was in the 72nd year of her monastic profession. During one interview, Sister Andrine was asked where she was born. "On the Range, of course," was her answer. Born May 29, 1912, Sister Andrine attended elementary school in her birthplace, Eveleth, Minnesota, and graduated from high school there in 1930. She earned an elementary teaching certificate from the State of Minnesota in 1944.

When Sister Andrine was a child, her father worked in the mines and her mother took in washing to help with family finances. Sister Andrine remembered the rhythm of prayer in her home, especially the saying of the Angelus before meals and the nightly rosary. Periodically, celebrations broke this regularity in the Kvaternik home. Christmas was a special time for her. Sister Andrine remembered her mother putting hazelnuts that had been carefully picked and saved for this time, into the potica, which was served before the family went to midnight Mass.

Sister Andrine taught for forty years in the elementary schools of St. Bridget's, Minneapolis; Assumption Hall, Hibbing; St. James Children's Home, Duluth; Cathedral, Duluth; Marquette, Virginia; St. Margaret Mary, West Duluth; Sacred Heart, Cloquet; and St. Joseph's, Grand Rapids. From 1965 until 1968, Sister Andrine taught CCD classes in Ely. In 1968 she became the housekeeper at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent in Virginia and, in 1970, at St. Benedict's Convent in Hibbing.

In 1972 Sister Andrine returned to Duluth to work at St. Mary's Convent where she became very well known for her craft work, especially the making of dolls. In 1981 she returned to the Monastery and assisted in various duties there. She did embroidery work on sheets and pillowcases and took great pride in making dish towels, tallying 2,801 at last count! In her later years she especially befriended Sister Clement Fried, who could neither see nor hear, keeping her in touch with the world.

Sister Andrine was preceded in death by her parents, Andrew and Frances (Gregorich); two brothers, Frank and Andrew; and two sisters, Frances Rychetsky and Mary Bollig. In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by a sister, Anne Kvaternik, and several nieces and nephews: Andrine Rozinka, Arlene Spirons, Patricia Keene, Charles Rychetsky, Francis Bollig, Frank Kvaternik, Greg Kvaternik, and Andre Kvaternik.



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



Helene Arnason
Frances Sheridan Bonder 2/18/05
Raeburn O'Malley Cannon 3/2/05
Albert Ringate 3/23/05
Vistor I. Luukkonen 5/20/05
 Sister Ingrid Luukkonen's brother
Leona Gefre 6/03/05
 Sister Teri Spinler's sister
Margaret Pavlatos 6/03/05
 +Sister Ann Edward Scanlon's sister
Stanley D. Roggy 6/05/05
Ralph J. Wilkens 6/8/05
Mary Lakmann 6/11/05
Mae L. Olson 6/14/05

Harold Neeser 6/15/05
 +Sister Marcelline Neeser's brother
Frank Jaminski 6/16/05
Daniel Neeser 6/27/05
 +Sister Marcelline Neeser's brother
Mary J. Sivertson 7/15/05
Helen Pappas 7/18/05
Mary C. Parise 8/01/05
Maggie Muehlbauer 7/25/05
Jack McGrath 7/26/05
Agnes Goad 8/09/05
 Sister Rebecca Burggraff's sister
Alex L. Hoffman 8/15/05
Eileen Anderson Eggers 9/4/05

"Knock and the door shall be opened." *By Sister Mary Catherine Shambour*

Photo by Sister Edith Bogue



Luce Dionne knocks at the Monastery door

"What, dear Sisters, could be more delightful than this voice of the Lord calling to us? See how the Lord in his love shows us the way of life." (Prologue, The Rule of St. Benedict)

From our first days as candidates in community, we memorized sections of the *Holy Rule*, the sixth-century document by which we promise to seek God the remainder of our lives. For over 1,500 years this *Rule* has guided men and women in a way of life that has witnessed to the Kingdom of God, helped transform society, and produced countless saints. But what would motivate a woman of the 21st century to consider such a way of life? The answer lies in the mystery that is the Spirit of God working in the human soul.

Although every Christian is called to holiness and union with God, in every age and culture there are men and women who respond by allowing God to direct their lives completely. Such persons freely embrace religious life within the Church in any of its many forms from apostolic to contemplative, from missionary to monastic. A monastic vocation is a call to one purpose alone: to seek God within a community. Benedictine monastics observe the

counsels followed by all consecrated religious, but in addition promise fidelity to monastic life and stability by which they choose to unite with a particular group of persons with whom they will praise and seek God. The work they do flows from their love of God and manifests their solidarity with all God's people as they utilize their gifts and talents in helping build the Kingdom on earth.

In spite of the various social and cultural revolutions that have swept the nation, including the secularization of society, turmoil in the Church, and a dearth of religious vocations for several decades, the Holy Spirit continues to work. Today, again, women and men are seeking to devote their lives to God. New needs within the church and society call for new blood, grounded in the faith and traditions of the past to help transform a world largely devoid of Christian values and hungering for the Word of God. St. Scholastica Monastery desires new members who seek God and can bring fresh vision to contemporary problems.

An encouraging sign of hope is the recent arrival in our community of a woman seeking to become an affiliate—the first stage of possible entrance into the community. Participating in an ancient ceremony from the *Rule*, Luce Dionne of Boston, Massachusetts, knocked upon the Monastery door three times on September 10, and stated her request to enter. The prioress then led her and the Community in procession to the oratory where she was welcomed. As an affiliate, Luce will discern whether or not she is truly being called to this Community. If she and the Community discern that she truly seeks God, she may apply to enter the postulancy, a stage of study and preparation for the novitiate, which is a time of intense spiritual preparation for making temporary and, later, perpetual monastic profession.

We earnestly pray that Luce and others will be drawn by God to seek God with us. We ask our readers who support us in so many ways, to pray that Luce and other women whom God is calling to a monastic way of life have the courage to respond. We also welcome your suggestions as to how we might encourage religious vocations within our families, schools, and parishes. Please also see our web site and the section on vocations at www.DuluthBenedictines.org or contact me, Sister Mary Catherine Shambour, at 218-723-6646 or mcshambour@aol.com.



Luce and Sister Mary Catherine, new Director of Vocations

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier

PATHWAYS



Published by: Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN
Produced by: Monastery Development / Public Relations Office
Editorial Board: Sister Lois Eckes, prioress; Vicky Siders, director; Sister Armella Oblak, Sister Almira Randall, Sister Grace Marie Braun, Sister Joyce Fournier, Sister Linda Wiggins, Sister Margaret Clarke, Sister Margaret James Laughlin, Sister Mary Richard Boo, Sister Rebecca Burggraff, and Rita Rosenberger.
Contributors: Sisters of the Community

PATHWAYS is published quarterly and is distributed among friends, relatives, associates and benefactors of the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.

St. Scholastica Monastery
1001 Kenwood Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811-2300
Telephone 218-723-6540 • FAX 218-723-5963
Visit our web site at www.DuluthBenedictines.org