

PATHWAYS



NEWSLETTER OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

DULUTH MINNESOTA

Summer, 2006

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Pentecost: Whoosh or Whisper?

By Sister Mary E. Penrose

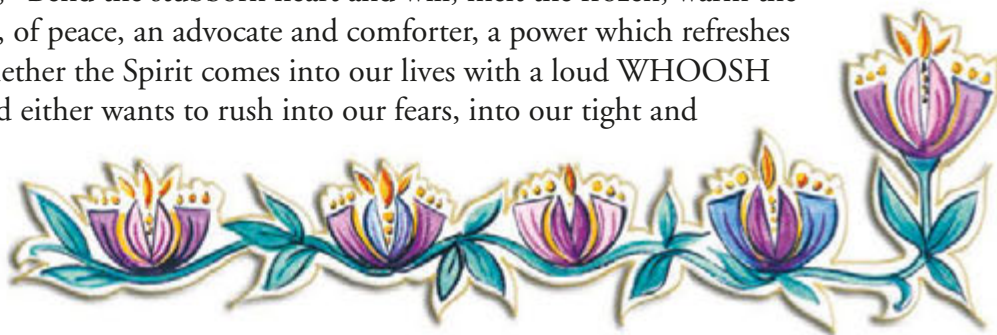


On the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the disciples with a loud noise like a strong, driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated (Acts 2:2). Many years later, Saint Gregory the Great said this noise completely changed their “earth-bound way of thinking.” On the other hand, the Apostle John described the Holy Spirit to Nicodemus this way: “The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes but you do not know where it comes from, or where it goes” (Jn. 3:8).

Who is this inexplicable Holy Spirit, often symbolized as a dove? A Buddhist monk once told a Christian regarding the Holy Trinity: “Honorable Father I understand. Honorable Son I understand. Honorable Bird I do not understand at all!” How many of us understand this “Honorable Bird”? We are aware of sense stimulations: we can see the moon on a clear summer’s night, hear the patter of rain on our roofs, smell our mother’s cooking, taste what has been cooked, touch the softness of a baby’s skin. But what about our spiritual senses? Can’t we “smell” when something is not right? Or “hear” what is not being said by an anxious parent? One Scripture professor described the Spirit as a stage director—behind the scenes—directing so subtly that we need training to sharpen these spiritual senses enough to hear the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Even though we are unable to see the Spirit, we do have clues. Saint Paul calls them the “fruits of the Spirit,” which he names love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness, and chastity (Gal. 5:22-23). When we observe these fruits in others, we know the Spirit is operating in their lives. At our Baptism we received the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. We need to pray that these gifts are activated in us so that the fruits of the Spirit become visible.

The Spirit came down on the Apostles in tongues of fire. Fire purifies and symbolizes passionate energy and love, and so the Sequence for Pentecost prays, “Bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill.” The Spirit is also a Spirit of truth, of peace, an advocate and comforter, a power which refreshes and recreates. It makes no difference whether the Spirit comes into our lives with a loud WHOOSH or as a whisper. What is clear is that God either wants to rush into our fears, into our tight and hidden places or that the Spirit is gently trying to move us in the best direction possible for ourselves and others.



A Letter from the Prioress

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite places to pray here at the Monastery is Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, in view of the sanctuary light. Suspended in a small opening between the Eucharistic Chapel and the Liturgy Chapel, this lamp can be seen from both places of prayer and worship. Positioned above the enthroned Scriptures, the ever-burning light reminds us of the presence of Christ in Word, Sacrament, and Assembly. Its continuous flame is framed by one of the stained-glass windows adorning the Eucharistic Chapel. As day unfolds, the colors in the window change from hues of purple and blue to glowing amber and gold. That single, steady, strong flame of light highlighted against the backdrop of the stained glass is for me a profound symbol and continuous reminder of the God who dwells within me, within you, within all creation.



Made in the image of our Creator, we each carry within us a “unique package of Divinity,” as I recently heard it described, full of the potential to manifest in our being and our life a unique likeness to our Maker. Christ, whom we have put on in Baptism, is the “unique package of Divinity” par excellence. He reveals to us both the fullness of God and the fullness of all we are called to be. His life, death, and Resurrection both challenge and empower us to reach our full stature as God’s beloved daughters and sons. Through the abiding gift of His Spirit, Christ tends the Eternal Flame, the Godseed glowing in the core of our being and empowers us to be holy vessels of His healing light and enduring love.

Another one of my favorite places for personal prayer is in nature, the oldest and most majestic temple of God’s glory. Being immersed in the beauty of creation, from the tiniest wildflower to the breathtaking rise of the morning sun over Lake Superior, from the melody of bird songs to the thunderous timpani of a summer storm, from the gentle fragrance of the balm of Gilead to the intoxicating aroma of a lilac hedge in full bloom, season after season, I find that the Earth shapes my prayer and invites me into deeper communion with the God who is both within and beyond all that is.

As you reverence the Holy Light, the Godseed glowing and growing within your own Sacred Center and within others, as you experience both the joy and the challenge of the Spirit of Christ revealing the “unique package of Divinity” that you are, may this blessing enfold you and gently find a home in your heart.

May you be filled with the wonder of being God’s beloved one, holding within you the Light of Divinity.

May you believe in the seeds of new life that stir within the earth of your heart, aching to break open and become a rich harvest to feed the hungers of the world.

May you be open to the unexpected and let God’s grace lead you to flowering places and to “quiet miracles that seek no attention.”

May you journey to that place in your soul where there is great love, forgiveness, and trust as you struggle to understand the mysteries of God’s grace at work within your life and the world.

May you welcome times of laughter and play to lighten and refresh your heart when it grows heavy and weary with anxiety, fear, and loss.

May you find and honor your own sacred times and places for prayer and let God’s transforming love speak to you there.

May you listen with the ear of your heart and see with the eyes of faith as you discover and celebrate the joy of falling in love with God whose love for you knows no bounds.

Lovingly in the Spirit of Christ
with deep gratitude and daily prayer,

Sister Lois Eckes

Sister Lois Eckes
Prioress

Cover: illuminations by Sister Mary Charles,
from the Monastery’s ceremonial *Rule of St. Benedict*

SISTER PROFILE:

Sister Celine Plante

By Sister Grace Marie Braun

Sister Celine Plante grew up in Fort Ripley, Minnesota, where she lived with her parents, Isadore and Myrtle, her sister Gertrude, and her brother Elmer. She entered St. Scholastica Monastery as a postulant in 1944.

After a period of initial formation and taking her first monastic vows, Sister Celine was assigned to domestic services as her active ministry. For twenty years, Sister served in this capacity at the McCabe Guest Home in Duluth (a residence for senior citizens) and in a variety of convents which housed Sisters teaching in elementary schools and a high school. Her “missions,” as they were called, included St. Thomas the Apostle, Phoenix, Arizona; St. Francis, Brainerd, Minnesota; Sacred Heart Convent, Duluth; and St. Thomas Convent, International Falls, Minnesota.

Sister Celine’s quiet presence was appreciated by the Sisters with whom she lived. They also appreciated her warm and welcoming kitchen when they stopped for coffee and a snack after school. The Sisters enjoyed the meals Sister Celine prepared, especially their “favorites” which she somehow always found out about. She enjoyed trying new recipes to bring a variety of foods to the dining-room table.

Sister Celine was next assigned to the Food Service in Somers Hall, a College of St. Scholastica dormitory, where her position of Food Service Supervisor earned her a ten-year service pin. She enjoyed the students and liked being on a college schedule, which included breaks during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter as well as summer vacations except for those special affairs at which her presence was needed.

After her tenure in the College Food Service, Sister Celine began her ministry in the Monastery Food Service, which had been expanded to include preparation of meals for both the Monastery Sisters and the residents of the Benedictine Health Center. The noon meal also included the Adult Day Services and the Child Care Center. Sister Celine’s

Photo by Sister Joyce Fournier



Sister Celine Plante

responsibility was to assist in preparing the hot foods—meat, potatoes, vegetables. At that time there were five Sisters working in the Food Service. Their work was demanding, but they had fun together as well, as they cooked, baked, prepared salads, desserts, special diets, and snacks that were needed.

In 1995 Sister Celine retired from domestic services. She continues to embroider dishtowels and pillowcases for sale in the Monastery Books and Gifts Shop and mends clothing for the Sisters who live on Benet Hall, our assisted living area at the Monastery.

This loyal, dedicated, faithful Sister who fed the hungry and cared for the elderly, enjoys pizza, ice cream, French crepes, the colors red and yellow, the song “Gift of Finest Wheat,” and always a good story. Sister Celine will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee (sixty years of monastic vows) in July.

PATHWAYS



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Photo by Clint Austin, Duluth News Tribune

Ruah Project

By Sister Mary Richard Boo



Steve O'Neill, Sister Mary Christa Kroening, and Sister Lois Eckes blessing the Ruah house.

Just a little over one year ago, the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery joined CHUM's Gabriel Project in an endeavor to transform the Lake Superior Community Health Clinic building at Lake Avenue and East Fifth Street into four supportive apartments for low-income persons. At that time, Sister Lois Eckes, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Duluth, voiced the feelings of the Benedictine religious community when she explained, "We believe we have a responsibility to help people in need. This project fits right into our mission and values: we want to offer people hope. We believe strongly in people's right to safe, affordable housing." Appropriately, she added, the housing project has been named The Ruah Project: Rehabilitating Urban

Affordable Housing. The very word *ruah* is a Biblical term which means "breath" or "spirit."

A month after its purchase a ceremony to bless the building was held and attended by some forty persons. Prayers were offered for the entire project as well as for the building itself and the families who will live there when the expected move into the renovated building actually takes place. Today, according to Ben Small, CHUM representative on the project, and John Miller, director of the construction, that goal is within reach by the proposed mid-June completion date.

The plan is to move families from the Chum Family Shelter into the apartments, two which have two bedrooms and two, three bedrooms. Once situated in their new homes, the families that have been selected will participate in on-going job training, parenting

classes, budgeting instruction, etc.

Miller reports that the appeal for help on the project has been received "enthusiastically." The initial \$200,000 grant from the Benedictine Sisters to purchase the former clinic and initiate reconstruction has been supplemented by volunteer labor from The College of St. Scholastica (four students), the University of Minnesota Duluth (five students), and Habitat for Humanity. "These volunteers are here, working three days a week," says John Miller. "They're the best people on earth."

Indeed, ALL of those working with the project are the world's best people, and many of them, including Miller and Small, are truly dedicated to the Ruah Project.

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

Rita Elslip 3/20/05
Dr. John T. Phelan 11/1/05
Phillip Hart 12/30/05
Marguerite Kondziela Riggs 1/8/06
Raymond Twohey 1/10/06
Maria Hapka 1/22/06
Dolores I. McGovern 2/4/06
Russell Ryan 2/10/06
Francis A. Theborge 2/12/06

Mae Pelican Jacobson 2/13/06
Germaine Lamers 2/18/06
Sister Marilyn Micke's sister
Amanda Neve 2/20/06
Jerome J. Mady 2/27/06
John Medes 3/1/06
Ruby Panichi 3/14/06
Philamene Frigo Digiacomo 2006
Father Robert Reimer, OMI 3/26/06

Kathryn Hallamek 4/11/06
Margaret Riley 4/11/06
Robert Leader 4/11/06
Robert Gilbertson 4/21/06
Sister Elizabeth Ann Gilbertson's
brother
Veronica Poquette 5/13/06
Joseph Cardone 2006

Casting Out the Nets in 2006

By Sister Mary Catherine Shambour

Photo by Kathy LaPlante



Sister Mary Catherine Shambour

Several months ago, just as I was looking forward to working on some pet projects put on hold during a lifetime of teaching, I was asked by the Community to serve as Vocation Director. Well, I guess that's what the promise of obedience I made many years ago was all about, and if that was what God was asking of me, who was I to say "No" now (and wouldn't God know best?), and maybe I'd be able to get at those projects anyway.

What is a Vocation Director, and why do we need one? Did Jesus have a Vocation Director? Well, yes, the Holy Spirit—and we know that Holy Spirit is very much still around. And anyway, a religious vocation comes from God, so what's my job? I guess it is to see that those whom the Holy Spirit is directing find the right way—to our house in Duluth, that is.

Anyone working at a new job is advised first to know the territory. I've been studying the landscape, and I've come to the conclusion that although we may know our home base very well, there is a whole

generation of younger Catholics who don't know who we are. That's clear from the kinds of questions I get. Observing their parents practicing or not practicing their faith in the tumultuous period following Vatican II when there was a mass exodus of priests and sisters, they are more intrigued by their grandparents' observances and the funny stories of the Sisters they knew. So I've got a lot of work to do—and I need your help.

Seriously. We do need the help of people like you who have known and been touched by the Sisters of this Community. You can continue to help us by your prayers and by spreading the word that we are a forward-looking Community of women who remain loyal to our monastic commitment and to the Church—although we don't hang out a shingle to say so. We did take very seriously the mandate of Vatican II that asked us to reexamine our life by returning to the spirit of our founder and to rid ourselves of external practices and customs that had lost their meaning over centuries. Through much soul-searching and discussion we rediscovered the riches of monasticism and its relevance to today's world and have promoted these values in our own lives and institutions, where they have taken off like wildfire. Every aspect of our Community life has been reexamined in light of the Gospel and the sixth-century *Rule of St. Benedict*—written for cloistered monastics—by which we strive to live in the twenty-first century. After many revisions, our constitutions have been fully approved and blessed by the Church, though we still struggle with what it means to be "active contemplatives" as we reach out to the needs of today's world. Therefore, we are ready for new members to carry on our vision, and we ask you to encourage women—both young and older—who truly seek God to consider joining us as a vowed religious, associate, or oblate. Our doors are open, and we welcome all interested in learning more about us.

Weekend Discernment Retreat

The Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery will host a weekend discernment retreat for single, Catholic women ages 18 and older at the Monastery June 30 (7 p.m.) to July 2 (2:30 p.m.). There is no charge, but registration is required. You are invited to extend your time at the Monastery to celebrate July 4th in Duluth. For more information, to register for the retreat, or to request a copy of our film "Sing a New Song," contact Sister Mary Catherine Shambour (218-723-6646) or mcshambour@aol.com.



SPONSORSHIP: *The Benedictine*

This is the fourth in a series of articles on sponsorship. The introductory article by Sister Kathleen Hofer dealt with an overview of the Monastery's sponsored institutions; the second by Sister Margaret Clarke discussed the Monastery's sponsor relationship with The College of St. Scholastica, and the third by Sister Monica Laughlin outlined the sponsorship of St. Mary's Medical Center.

In the early 1980s the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery owned and operated three health care facilities: St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd, St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, and the Benedictine Health Center in Duluth. The climate of health care was becoming extremely complex, which made it difficult for health care facilities to continue to be effective as "stand alone" institutions. After much study, discussion, and consideration of options to best meet the needs of the health care facilities, a decision was reached to establish a health system. It was the hope of the Sisters that creating a health system would be a means of dealing with the complexities of health care, bring about greater collaboration between the facilities, and involve additional lay people who would help to promote and ensure the continuation of the health care ministry of St. Scholastica Monastery. In 1985 the Benedictine Health System (BHS) came into existence with the three facilities mentioned.

A governing board was established which included lay people with expertise in various areas and the five Benedictine Sisters serving on St. Scholastica Monastery's corporate board, the Benedictine Sisters Benevolent Association. Reserve powers held by the Monastery's corporate board ensure that the mission and values are maintained. BHS provides health care through a Catholic, mission-driven, values-based health care system evidenced by its mission statement:

The Benedictine Health System, a Catholic health care organization entrusted with furthering the health care mission of the Benedictine Sisters of Duluth, Minnesota, provides a spectrum of services with special concern for the poor and the powerless. The system is committed to witness to God's love for all people by providing high-quality services in a compassionate environment that enhances human worth.



Clockwise from bottom left: Sister Claudia Riehl leads participants from the BHS All Administrative Staff Conference on a tour of St. Scholastica Monastery; Sisters blessing the participants at an All Administrative Staff Meeting at the Monastery; Sister Timothy Kirby plays the organ for the blessing ceremony; Chapel blessing for St. Eligius Health Center, Duluth—Bishop Dennis Schnurr officiated, Sister Mary Christa Kroening, left, and Sister Kathleen Hofer, right.

Photos courtesy BHS

Benedictine Health System

By Sister Clare Marie Trettel

One of the first agendas was to consider Benedictine values and develop a set of core values that would permeate the system. These core values of hospitality, respect, justice, and stewardship are evident in all of the facilities.

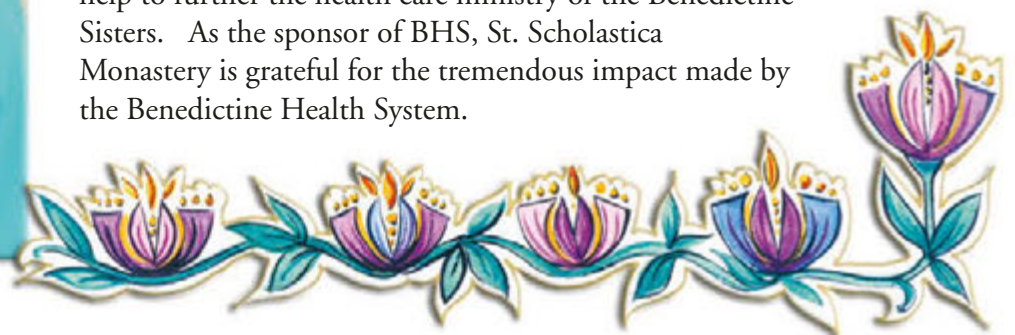
- Hospitality helps to create a climate which values each individual and promotes acceptance of everyone. It also means being open and sensitive to the uniqueness of each individual.
- Respect cherishes and promotes the worth of all human life. It treats all with reverence without regard to age, gender, race, or economic status. Respect values the dignity of work and promotes participation in decisions that affect one's life.
- Justice works to support open and fair decisions for all individuals. It asks that efforts be made to eliminate prejudices in ourselves as well as our institutions. Justice calls for advocacy for the poor and the powerless.
- Stewardship leads to the wise and responsible utilization of resources. It heeds the call of St. Benedict in Chapter 32 of the *Rule*: "regard all the utensils...as if they were the sacred vessels of the altar."

Today, through its many facilities, the Benedictine Health System provides a complete spectrum of care. It includes ten acute-care hospitals and more than fifty long-term care facilities which include nursing homes, assisted living, and independent housing. The BHS, a leader in the provision of Catholic health care, provides care in nine states.

BHS has become known nationally for its expertise in long-term care and has developed a new model for delivery of services. The Living Community Model is unique in that it utilizes the latest approaches for elder care by providing options for independent senior housing, assisted living, and nursing homes all on one campus. It provides a variety of services and activities in which the resident may choose to participate. One of the greatest benefits is that it allows residents to move easily from one option to another without leaving the campus.

Another area in which the system is in the forefront is in its commitment to rural acute care. This is accomplished through critical access hospitals and rural health clinics which provide quality health care to small communities. The Benedictine Health System presently manages seven critical access hospitals. The critical access program is a federal government effort to preserve rural health care through financial assistance to providers. It has made it possible to create greater flexibility in the delivery of services in rural areas.

A very strong relationship exists between St. Scholastica Monastery and the Benedictine Health System. Large numbers of Sisters no longer work within the facilities, but Sisters serve on their governing boards. Sister Mary Christa Kroening, Liturgical and Ritual Services Senior Consultant, and Sister Claudia Riehl, Mission Integration Director, work in the system office but also spend many hours within the facilities. Administrative leaders meet periodically at the Monastery and are well oriented on the mission and core values of BHS. Almost 8,000 employees live the core values and help to further the health care ministry of the Benedictine Sisters. As the sponsor of BHS, St. Scholastica Monastery is grateful for the tremendous impact made by the Benedictine Health System.



Highlights

CHUM

Sister Maria Volk enjoys a moment with Mayor Herb Bergson (right) and Reverend Dave Carlson at a benefit dinner for CHUM April 22, 2006, at United Methodist Church. The menu consisted of Middle Eastern and Indian cuisine prepared by the Muslim community and India Palace Restaurant. Various businesses provided auction and door prize items and services. CHUM (Churches United in Ministry) is an organization that does advocacy and works for people with unmet needs. The Monastery is an active member, providing financial and service support.

Photo by David Clanaugh



Photo by Kathy LaPlante



WINDSENSE AWARD

In April, 2006, Bruce Johnson, Project Manager of The Evergreen Energy Group, presented Sister Lois Eckes with a certificate of appreciation from Minnesota Power for the Monastery's participation in WindSense, a Renewable Energy Partnership. Under this program, businesses and organizations use power generated by wind to help promote a cleaner environment.

BREAD-MAKING

Each spring Sister Mary Rochefort hosts Holy Rosary School second graders. She teaches them bread-making and discusses bread as a source of life as they prepare for their first communion. Right: Sister Mary is assisted by Jessica Gerst as other children from Holy Rosary observe.

Photo by Kathy LaPlante



STANBROOK HALL REUNION THIS JULY 23

The Stanbrook Hall Reunion will be Sunday, July 23, at St. Scholastica Monastery. All are welcome to attend. We especially encourage anniversary classes of 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, and 1966. You are welcome to come by yourself or organize an entire class. If you do not know your class representative, please call Kathy LaPlante in the Development/Public Relations Office (218-723-6536) or e-mail her at DuluthMonastery@aol.com.

Activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. with conversation and a new PowerPoint presentation of Stanbrook memories. You are welcome to join us for Mass, brunch, conversation, and tours. Monastery Books and Gifts, Scholastica Framing and Photography, and the Heritage Room will be open. There is no charge to attend the Stanbrook reunion, but please contact Kathy LaPlante by July 1 if you will attend so that we may plan for brunch. *We look forward to seeing you in July!*



BENEDICTINE FRIENDS BANQUET

By Sister Armella Oblak

As another event-filled year at The College of St. Scholastica was drawing to a close, the Benedictine Friends held their traditional banquet. This group, Benedictine Friends, is made up of students from the College who have become friends with Sisters from the Monastery.

Students who will graduate this year were introduced by their Sister-Friend. These students included Leah Johnson, Katie Thamert, Teresa Newton, Mary Bessing, Kirsten Fuller, Annah Carlson, Rebecca Petronas, Ivy Leland, and Jenna Brennan. It was a time for these seniors to be able to share briefly about their years at Scholastica and what their futures might hold.

It was also a time to bid farewell to Molly Weyrens, Coordinator of Campus Ministry, who has done wonders in helping Benedictine Friends develop lifelong relationships. Molly may be leaving us, but her spirit will always linger with us at Scholastica as we watch the work she began continue to grow and flourish.

Photos by Sister Patricia Anne Williams



Benedictine Friend Nicole Alton with Sister Claudia Riehl



Molly Weyrens, Campus Ministry Coordinator (left)
and Sister Mary Rochefort, Director of Mission
Integration



Benedictine Friends April 2006

In Loving Memory

Sister Virginia Currie

Sister Virginia (Cecilia) Currie, OSB, 92, of St. Scholastica Monastery, died Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at the Monastery. She entered the Duluth Benedictines in 1936 and professed monastic vows in 1938. She was in her 67th year of monastic profession. Born in Hibbing, Minnesota, on September 3, 1913, Sister Virginia received her elementary education there at McGolrick Institute. She was a graduate of Hibbing High School and attended Hibbing Junior College. She earned a two-year diploma from the University of Minnesota Duluth and a Bachelor of Science degree from The College St. Scholastica. Sister Virginia participated in numerous workshops during her career and took courses at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, and Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She held lifetime teaching certificates for Minnesota and Arizona.

As a teacher of primary and intermediate grades, Sister Virginia served at St. Thomas Aquinas School, International Falls, Minnesota; Cathedral Elementary School, Duluth; St. Timothy's School, Chicago, Illinois; Holy Name School, Wayzata, Minnesota; and St. Thomas the Apostle School, Phoenix, Arizona. While in Phoenix, Sister was involved in Project Head Start for several years. Sister Virginia also taught catechetical school at St. Joseph's Church in Chisholm, Minnesota. She served for one year as principal and convent superior both in International Falls and in Chisholm.

During the summer months Sister Virginia taught religion classes in various parishes. The last few years were especially happy ones for her as she was assigned to the parish in Cook, Minnesota, where her brother, Father Myron, was pastor. Their sister, Lucille, was his housekeeper, and another sister, Amelia, lived in Hibbing—just a short distance away. In addition to teaching summer classes, Sister Virginia helped with office work at Hibbing General Hospital; at the information desk at St. Ann's Residence, Duluth; and as nurse's aide at St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth. She also assisted in various ways at St. James Children's Home and McCabe Guest Home, both in Duluth. After her retirement from teaching in 1980, Sister Virginia returned to the Monastery and helped in various positions and at the Information Desk until 1994.

Sister Virginia was a quiet, gentle, kind woman who possessed a good sense of humor. She was a prolific letter writer and wrote letters for many of the elderly, infirm Sisters. She liked to knit, read, play cards, drive, watch sports (especially football), listen to music, and sing—in a group only! Serving others, she often said, was a true source of happiness for her. Sister had a strong faith and sense of commitment for which she credited her father. She said his physical strength (that of a blacksmith) was equaled by the strength of his faith. He led the family in the rosary each night and in discussions on the homily of the day at Sunday dinners.

Sister Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, James and Anna (Deering) Currie; her three brothers - Bryant (Stub), Rev. Fr. Myron, and Frank; and three sisters - Amelia, Lucille, and Dorothea (Mrs. Fred Johnston). She is survived by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery and by other relatives.



Sister Rosalyn (Rose Mary) Tisel

Sister Rosalyn (Rose Mary) Tisel, OSB, 87, of St. Scholastica Monastery, died Sunday, April 2, 2006, at the Monastery. She entered the Duluth Benedictines in 1936 and professed monastic vows in 1938. She was in her 67th year of monastic profession. Sister Rosalyn was born in Virginia, Minnesota, on October 12, 1918. She received her high school education at Villa St. Scholastica, Duluth; an Associate of Arts degree from University of Minnesota, Duluth; and a Bachelor of Arts degree from The College St. Scholastica. She also attended the Gregorian Institute at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, and did graduate work at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. She served on the Monastery's Council from 1970 to 1973 and was a trustee on the Hibbing General Hospital Board of Trustees from 1971 to 1973.

In Loving Memory continued...

Sister Rosalyn spent fifty years as a teacher of the intermediate grades at St. Clement's School, St. James School, and Sacred Heart School, all in Duluth; St. Thomas School, International Falls; Assumption School, Hibbing; St. Joseph School, Grand Rapids; Marquette School, Virginia, where she also served as superior; and Maryhill Academy, Aitkin, as principal and superior for six years and as organist and choir director. In 1988 she began assisting at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Hibbing, and continued this service until she returned to the Monastery in June 1997. Sister Rosalyn was organist in every school except one and continued this ministry for the residents at the Benedictine Health Center after her retirement.

Highlights in Sister's life were a trip to Chile to visit the Sisters missioned there and a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1988, a gift received for her Golden Jubilee that year. Sister enjoyed sports, especially skating and tennis. At her wake many commented that she was a perfectionist, very prayerful and quiet, and totally without guile. A priest she worked with in Hibbing said she was such a calm, soothing person that he found it wonderful to delegate tasks to her "without having to take an Alka-Seltzer"!

Sister Rosalyn was preceded in death by her parents, Ignatius and Rose (Drobnich) Tisel, and her brother Ignatius (Ted). She is survived by her sister-in-law Mrs. Ignatius Tisel (Mildred), the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, and other relatives.

Sister Janelle (Patricia) Cahoon

Sister Janelle (Patricia) Cahoon, OSB, 83, St. Scholastica Monastery, died Thursday, April 20, 2006, in St. Mary's Medical Center. She entered the Duluth Benedictines in 1946 and professed monastic vows in 1947. She was in her 59th year of monastic profession.

Sister Janelle was born in Calumet, Michigan, on March 3, 1923, and attended elementary school and high school in Houghton, Michigan. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from The College St. Scholastica in 1946; a Master's degree in theology from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, in 1954; and a Doctorate in sociology from Fordham University in 1963. She did additional graduate study at St. Louis University and at Argonne National Laboratory.

Sister Janelle began her teaching career in 1947 at Stanbrook Hall, Duluth, as teacher of religion. She taught third grade at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Virginia, Minnesota, for one year and then spent two years at St. Joseph's Catechetical School in Chisholm, Minnesota. In 1953 she began her many years of service at The College of St. Scholastica. After receiving her doctorate Sister Janelle concentrated on teaching sociology and from 1959 to 1980 served as chair of the Sociology/Social Work Department.

She loved teaching, and the Lavine Award for Excellence in Teaching, which she received in 1990, confirms the fact that she was a good teacher. She was awarded the title of *professor emerita* in 1993. In recent years, when she could no longer teach, she continued to serve the College as a mentor for students who were unable to take tests in a normal classroom setting. She said, "I love working on a one-to-one basis with students, so I was happy I could help outside of the classroom setting." As she put it, "Nuns never retire; they just get recycled."

Locally, Sister Janelle served on the Duluth Community Action Program Board, the Board of Woodland Hills, the Catholic Social Services Board, the Duluth Schools Human Relations Advisory Committee, and the Group Services Task Force for United Way. Her many services to the Duluth Benedictine community included being a member of the Federation of St. Benedict Juridic Committee and delegate to the General Chapter of the Federation of St. Benedict.

Sister Janelle was preceded in death by her parents, William James and Ruth (Smothers). In addition to the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, she is survived by one brother, William of Centerville, Ohio, and two sisters: Sister Mary Odile of St. Scholastica Monastery and Aileen Coon (George) of Royal Oak, Michigan, as well as cousins, nieces, and nephews.



Volunteers Recognized

By Sister Armella Oblak

On April 27, 2006, forty of the fifty people who currently volunteer at the Monastery and their twenty guests joined the Sisters for Evening Praise and dinner. The dining room rang with conversation and laughter, while Meredith Schifsky played beautiful dinner music on her harp.

After dinner each volunteer manager who was privileged to have volunteers during the year expressed gratitude to those who had served in their areas. Three volunteers were awarded service pins by Prioress Lois Eckes, who thanked all volunteers for their dedication and contribution to St. Scholastica Monastery. Those receiving awards were Laura Hoelter for five years, Laetitia Olsen for five years, and Jude Collins for fifteen years of service to the Monastery.



L to R: Sister Melanie Gagne, Mary Amundsen, Sister Ramona Ewen



Sister Mary Rae Higgins (left) with Tom and Linda Vukelich



Oblate Meredith Schifsky providing dinner music



L to R: Tom Robinson, Sister Armella Oblak, Gloria Galeski, Pat Gentry, Lois Robinson



L to R: Jane Maghan, Kris Kettelson, Margaret Berg



Donna and Jerry Leonard



Sister Lois Eckes awards a five-year pin to Laetitia Olsen



Sister Laura Daigle and Sheri Scanlon, RSVP Coordinator for Duluth

Photos by Sister Patricia Anne Williams